ISSN 0147-9725

MARYLAND BIRDLIFE

Bulletin of the Maryland Ornithological Society, Inc.

MARCH–JUNE 2003
VOLUME 59
NUMBERS 1–2

MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

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Cover: Eastern Bluebirds at nest box, Waldorf, MD, June 6, 2002. Photo © George M. Jett.

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SPRING ARRIVALS OF MARYLAND AND WASHINGTON, D.C. BIRDS

A preliminary evaluation of 100 years of record keeping and recommendations for their continued compilation

Sam Droege, Andrea van den Berg, and Elizabeth Keller

Abstract: The characteristics and usefulness of volunteer collected spring arrival dates are evaluated using data for 6 species of Maryland long-distance migrants (N=1502 observations) extracted from the 6 million archived Migration Observation Cards and from more recent efforts of members of the Maryland Ornithological Society. Arrival dates were found to have low variability from year-to-year. The Coefficients of Variation of arrival dates (with trends removed) for each species ranged from 4.8% to 7.9%. The range of days contained within the 95% confidence interval averaged only 10.2, 7.1, 2.2, and 5.1 for the 4 geographic regions inspected within Maryland. Arrival dates varied significantly among geographic regions within Maryland for most species. Three species showed no significant change in arrival date since the 1880's, two had shifted to later dates, and 1 to earlier. Arrival dates are easy to collect and precise enough to detect shifts in migration habits of many North American species. We suggest reinstating this collection system and list our recommendations for doing so.

The first arrival of birds each spring has been observed and recorded throughout history. Such arrivals were a marker for spring sowing (e.g., the Brown Thrasher, *Toxostoma rufum,* the farmer's "planting bird"), grist for the poet...

Spring came with tiny lances thrusting,
And earth was clad in peeping green;
In russet bark, the twigs incrusting,
Tenderest blossom-points were seen;
A robin courier proclaimed good cheer:
Summer will soon arrive, for I am here.
—Wilbur Larremore, "Blossom Time"

...and duly recorded within the journals of naturalists. Not unexpectedly, such an obvious phenomenon attracted those whose love it is to organize the unorganized, and groups were formed in ornithological circles early on to centralize and document arrival dates. The result was the first continental bird monitoring program in North America and perhaps the world.

Initial efforts began with Wells W. Cooke, who coordinated volunteers throughout the Mississippi flyway: "Hoping that this attempt to enlarge our knowledge of the interesting subject of migration…" (Cooke 1882). That early effort was soon embraced by C. Hart Merriam

from within the newly constituted American Ornithologists' Union in the form of the Committee on Migration (AOU 1883), and the network expanded to encompass all of the United States, Canada, and portions of the West Indies. In the late 1880's the program passed from the Union to the federal government's Division of Economic Ornithology, where, by 1889, the number of correspondents had reached nearly 3000 (USDA 1936). The program was actively maintained within the federal government (but with dwindling numbers of observers) until 1970, resulting in a current collection of approximately 6 million handwritten cards.

In more recent times some state ornithological societies have continued to ask their members to track first arrival dates for migrants, but little beyond publication of yearly tabulations in state bird journals has been done with the data. Currently the only remaining organized collection of such information in North America, to our knowledge, is in Maine (Wilson et al. 2000). While millions of records have been collected involving thousands of observers, only a few summaries of these data have been produced. Of these, only five analyze changes in bird phenology over time in North America (Cooke, W.W. 1915, Temple and Carey 1987, Oglesby and Smith 1995, Bradley et al. 1999, Wilson et al. 2000). There have been no published evaluations of the technique.

In this paper we characterize and evaluate the systematic collection of first arrival dates for birds using 112 years of data from 6 species of long-distance migrants in Maryland. We discuss the characteristics of these data as well as their ability to accurately and precisely detect changes. Furthermore, we present ways to increase the value of the collection of this type of data and explore their implications for detecting global climate change and other phenomena related to bird migration dates.

Methods

First spring arrival dates were transcribed from the Migration Observer Cards kept at Patuxent Wildlife Research Center and from records collected in the 1970s and 1980s kept by the Maryland Ornithological Society. Each record represents an individual observer's earliest detection of the species within a given year. No additional information was available that indicated the extent of time each observer had available for observation within a year. Because of resource constraints, arrival data for only six species (1502 records, Table 1) were evaluated: Chimney Swift (*Chaetura pelagica*), Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*), Great Crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus crinitus*), Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*), Wood Thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*), and Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga olivacea*). These species were chosen to be representative of other Neotropical migratory landbirds, since they have a mix of migration strategies and comparable recent data from Maryland were available. Records were eliminated that had arrival dates later than late May or were unassigned to county. Records spanned the years 1877 to 1988.

All data were tested with a one-way ANOVA, and a Bonferroni Pairwise Post Hoc Test was used to evaluate pairwise comparisons at the $P = 0.05$ level of significance. Coefficients of Variation (CV) of dates of first arrival were calculated using the standard error of a linear regression (with date as the dependent variable and year as the independent variable) and then divided by the mean. All statistical tests were performed using Systat 7.0 (SPSS 1997). Log-transformations to better approximate a normal distribution were necessary for the Barn Swallow data only. The few data outliers identified in the Systat regression analysis (Leverage

values greater than 0.60) were eliminated from the dataset and the regressions re-calculated without them.

Geographic subregions were created to test if arrival dates were affected by geographic location. Grouping counties into elevation and latitudinal zones created four regions. Region 1 (Allegheny Plateau): Garrett County. Region 2 (Ridge and Valley): Allegany, Washington, and Frederick counties. Region 3 (Piedmont and Northern Coastal Plain): Carroll, Baltimore, Harford, Cecil, Montgomery, Howard, Anne Arundel, Prince George's, Calvert, Kent, Queen Anne's, Talbot, and Caroline counties, and Washington D.C. Region 4 (Southern Coastal Plain): Charles, St. Mary's, Dorchester, Wicomico, Worcester, and Somerset counties.

Data from Regions 2 and 3 were combined for analyses of change over time as there were no differences in arrival times within a species between these two regions. Lowess smoothed plots of first arrival dates across years were created to visually portray any non-linear changes (tension = 0.3).

Results

Table 1 (page 6) lists the average arrival date with the associated confidence interval for each species across the four regions. There were significant differences in the average spring arrival dates among this group of species ($F_{5,1267} = 247.8$, $P < 0.0001$). Post hoc tests showed that all species had different mean arrival times ($P<0.05$) from one another with the exception of Scarlet Tanagers and Great Crested Flycatchers. Figure 1 (page 7) presents LOWESS smoothed plots of change over time in arrival date for the sixspecies. Data for Barn Swallows have been log-transformed.

Barn Swallow

No differences were found in arrival dates among regions for Barn Swallows ($F_{3,264}=1.504$, $P=0.214$). Regression analysis demonstrated that recorded arrival dates occurred earlier with time ($F_{1,217} = 13.092$, $P < 0.0001$).

Chimney Swift

Significant differences in arrival date occurred among regions ($F_{3,297} = 7.507$, $P < 0.0001$) between far western Maryland and all other regions as well as between the Ridge and Valley and Southern Maryland counties ($P < 0.05$). Differences in arrival dates ranged from 9-15 days later between far western Maryland and the other regions. No significant time-related trends were found ($F_{1,254} = 0.051$, $P = 0.822$).

Red-eyed Vireo

Significant differences among the regions in arrival date were detected ($F_{3,233} = 6.376$, $P < 0.0001$) with birds from far western Maryland arriving later and the Eastern Shore counties earlier and a similar pattern between the Ridge and Valley and southern Maryland counties ($P > 0.05$). Arrival dates were 4-8 days later in far western Maryland than the other regions. No trends were detected across time in arrival date ($F_{1,202}=0.034$, $P=0.854$).

Scarlet Tanager

Significant differences in arrival date exist among regions ($F_{3,235} = 4.877$, $P = 0.003$). Significant regional differences (5-7 days earlier) occurred between the Southern Coastal Plain counties and all other regions. Regression analysis detected no significant trend over time ($F_{1,207} = 0.178$, $P = 0.673$).

Great Crested Flycatcher

No significant differences were found among regions ($F_{3,191} = 0.952$, $P = 0.417$) in arrival date, but there was a significant trend towards a later arrival in Maryland over time ($F_{1,146} = 4.458$, $P = 0.036$).

Wood Thrush

No significant differences among regional arrival dates were detected ($F_{3,270} = 1.994$, $P = 0.115$). However, there was a significant trend toward later average arrival in the spring over time ($F_{1,237} = 13.375$, $P < 0.0001$).

REGION

Date / Mean (N) / 95% Confidence Interval

SPECIES	1	2	3	4
Chimney Swift	May 2	Apr. 17	Apr. 19	Apr. 23
	121.8 (6)	106.5 (30)	109.3 (226)	112.5 (30)
	127.1–116.6	110.6–102.4	110.4–108.2	114.5–110.5
Barn Swallow	Apr. 21	Apr. 14	Apr. 14	Apr. 12
	111.2 (9)	103.6 (30)	103.5 (189)	102.3 (39)
	120.0–102.5	108.7–98.4	105.1–102.0	105.4–99.1
Great Crested Flycatcher	May 5	May 4	May 4	May 2
	124.7 (9)	124.4 (21)	123.9 (127)	121.5 (38)
	127.6–121.7	129.1–119.8	125.4–122.5	124.3–118.8
Wood Thrush	May 2	Apr. 29	Apr. 28	Apr. 29
	122.3 (8)	118.7 (29)	117.7 (210)	118.8 (26)
	126.6–117.9	121.1–116.3	118.5–116.9	121.5–116.2
Red-eyed Vireo	May 7	May 4	May 1	Apr. 29
	127.3 (8)	123.5 (24)	120.6 (180)	118.8 (25)
	132.3–122.2	126.3–120.8	121.5–119.8	120.9–116.8
Scarlet Tanager	May 7	May 5	May 4	Apr. 29
	126.6 (7)	124.7 (23)	123.9 (186)	119.3 (22)
	130.8–122.4	126.8–122.5	124.9–123.0	121.9–116.6

Table 1. Data for numeric (Julian Day) non-leap year arrival dates in Maryland.

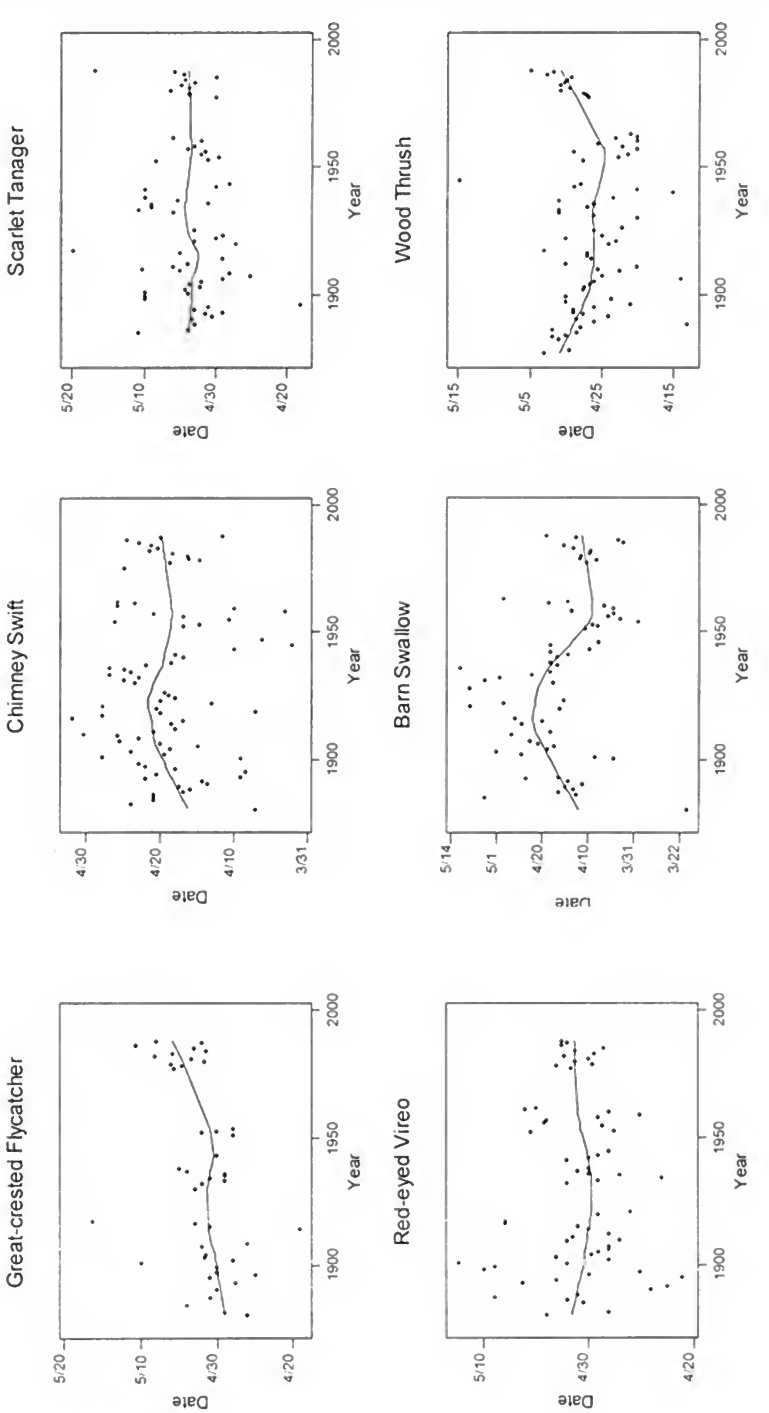

Figure 1. LOWESS smoothed plots of change over time in arrival date. Data for Barn Swallows have been log-transformed.

Coefficient of Variation

The percent CVs for arrival dates for each species varied from 4.8 to 7.9% (Table 2). The range of days contained within the 95% confidence interval for each species averaged only 10.2, 7.1, 2.2, and 5.1 for regions 1-4 respectively (Table 1).

Species	*Error*	*Mean (Julian Day)*	*CV*
Barn Swallow	0.104	4.634	.022
Chimney Swift	8.598	108.949	.079
Great Crested Flycatcher	8.465	124.000	.068
Red-eyed Vireo	5.774	120.975	.048
Scarlet Tanager	6.230	124.019	.050
Wood Thrush	6.060	117.799	.051

Table 2. Standard errors (taken from regressions of arrival date), means, and CVs for six species in selected counties in Maryland (see text). Data for Barn Swallows are natural log-transformed.

Discussion

First arrival dates of spring and fall birds have been and will continue to be recorded by birdwatchers and students of nature. Ornithological societies and clubs have, in the past, organized the collection of arrival dates and compiled them in regional journals, though that practice has now largely ended. From the samples investigated in this study it is clear that spring arrival dates are highly predictable events. When sample sizes are large, regional estimates vary only by 2-3 days on average. Such predictability when calculated in terms of the coefficient of variation yields CVs of first arrival dates across years averaging just 5.9%. Compared to average CVs of population counts across years for passerines (57%), other vertebrates (frogs 93%, small mammals 60%, and non-salmonid fishes 71%), and even plants (21%). Arrival dates are remarkable in their lack of variation from year to year (Gibbs et al 1998). Such low variability permits the detection of small shifts in average arrival date.

Despite their consistent detectability, ease of collection, and potential for detecting shifts in migration patterns, few bird clubs publish useful data. Additionally, while a number of these societies have collected some information about migration dates in the past, a casual survey of bird-watching societies and clubs across the continent indicates that almost none of them do so now; with the exception of a program in Maine with over 100 observers (Herbert Wilson, pers. comm.). The few other arrival dates that are published are usually the anomalous ones, arrivals so early as to be noteworthy but not a useful characterization of arrival patterns.

Recommendations for Collecting and Summarizing Arrival Date Information

Systematic and standardized compilation of arrival dates does have relevance and is an activity that bird-watching clubs can readily compile. Furthermore, the existence of 6 million records of arrival, departure, and migration records archived at Patuxent Wildlife Research Center from the late 19th century creates a means of assessing over 100 years of changes in those patterns. Similar data for quantitative comparisons for this length of time are not available for assessing population changes.

We feel that the following points need be considered in creating a relevant and comparable migration date recording system; without such information, reports of migration dates will either be unusable because variances and sample sizes were absent or biased because changes in observer behavior over time lead to false increases or decreases in dates.

1. Reports need to be summarized geographically by county (or other relatively small geographic regions) to account for variations in arrival dates by latitude, altitude, and proximity to large water bodies.

2. Reports summarizing arrival dates may report the earliest records for arrivals, as that is usually of interest to birders, but, more importantly, also need to report the average arrival date, the total number of lists that reported the species (not simply the total number of lists submitted), and the standard deviation or confidence interval for the records. Such summaries allow comparisons of change of average arrival date to be made among time periods and locations.

3. A database housing all the records, observer names, exact localities, and arrival and departure dates would, in the long run, present the greatest flexibility in making long-term comparisons across time and with other geographic sites.

4. While perhaps difficult to extract from observers, an indication from them of the number of days they had available during the season to detect arrival dates (perhaps even a calendar of availability) would decrease the bias towards recording later arrivals that trips away from the region would create. Alternatively, observers could be asked to not record arrival dates they feel may be misleading because they were away from the area. It is important to emphasize that these records should be a reflection of the first arrivals of species into an area rather than a mere recording of the species on a trip away from their primary place of observation.

5. A centralized program and database run through a web site would be an ideal way to coordinate the wide-scale collection of such data throughout the continent.

Arrival Dates as a Measure of Global Change

Long- and short-term shifts in arrival dates are potentially related to changes in climate and associated plant and insect populations. Depending upon the cues that migratory birds

use to determine when and how quickly they migrate, the impacts of climate change could be expressed as shifts in arrival times. This paper is not a fair investigation of such shifts as its focus is methodological. However, the 100+ years of data for the six species chosen are worthy of some comment.

Despite low variances and concomitant high ability to detect even small changes in average arrival date, no changes in arrival dates were noted for three species (Red-eyed Vireo, Scarlet Tanager, and Chimney Swift). Of the remaining three, two were detected later in the spring (Great Crested Flycatcher and Wood Thrush) and only one (Barn Swallow) was detected earlier in the spring.

With a complete data set for all species and all regions of North America more thorough analyses of patterns of change can occur. What species are increasing, decreasing, or stable? Are those patterns associated with the migration guild of the species (e.g., neotropical migrant, short-distance, forest-wintering, scrub-wintering, aerial feeder)? Are the yearly fluctuations associated with weather on the wintering grounds, on the migration route, at the arrival point? Are conditions of wintering bird habitats or the average number of winter days associated with these changes? Rates of northward migration for each species can be calculated if data are collected throughout the continent and similar divinations of those patterns in conjunction with climatic variables are evaluated.

There is irony in the history of migration counts. Just when the possible importance of this, the oldest avian monitoring program in the continent, is documented it ceases to exist. While the collection of these data would appear moribund, it should be noted that a small project in Maine collected 15,000 arrival records over their first four years (1994-1997; Wilson et al. 2000), an indication that while collection of arrival dates has largely stopped the interest has not.

Acknowledgments

We would like to thank Bob Ringler for access to the Maryland Ornithological Society's files and Chandler S. Robbins for access to the Migration Observer Card files. Chandler S. Robbins and Herbert Wilson also provided numerous useful comments on an early draft of this paper.

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THE GULLS OF SCHOOLHOUSE POND

Gull observations and numbers from the winter of 2002–2003

Fred Shaffer

Schoolhouse Pond in Upper Marlboro is an ideal site for observing a wide range of birds throughout the year. A variety of waterfowl show up during the winter. A wide assortment of migrants passes through during the spring and fall. Large numbers of birds nest around and in the vicinity of the pond. Recent confirmed or probable breeders have included a pair of Barred Owls, Red-shouldered Hawks, Yellow-billed Cuckoos, American Redstarts, Song Sparrows, Wood Ducks, Northern Parula, Yellow-throated Vireos, White-eyed Vireos, Red-eyed Vireos, and many others. And, unusual rarities can occur, as witnessed by the appearance of a White Pelican in November 2000.

However, Schoolhouse Pond is perhaps at its finest during the cold winter months when a layer of ice covers the water. During the colder months, it is not uncommon to find well over 1000 gulls noisily congregated on the ice. On some days, numbers approach 2000, with most gulls in easy view with binoculars or a scope. On these days, virtually all of the available ice is covered by these noisy and sometimes contentious birds (see above). Schoolhouse Pond gets its large number of gulls due to its proximity to the nearby landfill on Brown Station Road. The pond, with its observation deck, boardwalk, and trail, provides an unequaled opportunity for the close study and observation of these birds for both the casual bird watcher and the committed larophile. After the passing of a Red-tailed Hawk or Bald Eagle, the swirling flock of a thousand or more gulls is a sight not soon to be forgotten.

Schoolhouse Pond

Table 1
Total Gulls, October 1, 2002–May 7, 2003

Species	*Total*	*Percent*
Ring-billed Gulls	30,968	53%
Laughing Gulls	20,600	35%
Herring Gulls	6,860	12%
Bonaparte's Gulls	305	0.5%
Great Black-backed Gulls	136	0.2%
Lesser Black-backed Gulls	39	0.07%
Thayer's Gull	1	0.002%
Iceland Gull	1	0.002%
Glaucous Gull	1	0.002%
TOTAL	58,911	100%

During recent years, I have begun to keep track of the gulls during the seasons when they are most abundant, from the beginning of October through the beginning of May. Undoubtedly, there are many gulls that show up at the pond repeatedly, but I suspect that there is quite a bit of turnover as even on its busiest days, Schoolhouse Pond sees only a small fraction of the total number of gulls visiting the Brown Station Road Landfill. Hopefully my records reflect the overall numbers and composition of the gulls that occur at the pond, as well as reflecting the abundance of different age groups and the occurrence of rarities.

Total Numbers of Gulls

The total number of gulls seen at the pond during this time period can be seen in Table 1. The majority of these sightings were by myself during my lunch break or immediately after work, but several sightings by others were included if they were posted on the MDOsprey listserve or reported to me verbally.

As is clear from this table, rare gulls are just as hard to come by as rare birds from other groups. Over 99% of the gulls spotted from October 1, 2002 through May 7, 2003 were Ring-billed, Laughing, or Herring Gulls. Of particular interest was the regular appearance of Lesser Black-backed Gulls. While some birds were probably repeat visitors at the pond, there was undoubtedly a number of different birds occurring, as evidenced by the array of plumages and ages that were recorded. On numerous occasions there were multiple birds present, with a high of four Lesser Black-backed Gulls on January 31 (all first winter), and three present on three other days (combinations of adult & 1st winter gulls). All four years of Lesser Black-backed Gulls were seen, with 1st winter, 2nd winter, 3rd winter, and adult birds being seen on different days.

Laughing Gull numbers reached their peak during the month of November, with high counts of approximately 2500 on November 15, 2220 on November 4, and at least 1800 on November 5 and November 18, and 1500 on November 25. Laughing Gull numbers dropped off markedly after December 2, with only a handful of birds remaining after December 10.

The latest Laughing Gull reported in the winter was noted on December 31, with no other Laughing Gulls being seen at the pond until March. This fits the pattern noted by several birders that I spoke with who observed that Laughing Gulls tend to be absent from the area during the month of January. The only Laughing Gulls that I have seen at Schoolhouse Pond during the month of January were a pair seen on January 18, 2002.

Conversely, Ring-billed Gull numbers increased steadily through early and mid-December, with especially high counts of 1075 on December 19 and 1348 on December 30. A thousand or more birds were seen during January 14–17. High numbers persisted through early March, with a one-day high of 1600 Ring-billed Gulls on February 6. March 4 was the last day with large numbers of Ring-billed Gulls with 1070 birds. By March 6, the last of the remaining ice melted from the pond and no more than a few dozen gulls were seen at the pond at any one time. I have frequently noticed this over the years I have been birding at Schoolhouse Pond. The highest numbers of gulls in winter occur when there is ice on the pond, and numbers drop off noticeably as soon as all of the ice has melted.

Aging

Another interesting aspect of gull observation is aging. As expected, the largest number of gulls consisted of 1st winter and adult birds. While I kept aging records for numerous species of three and four-year gulls, my most detailed information was for Ring-billed Gulls (Table 2). The aging summaries for Great Black-backed Gulls and Lesser Black-backed Gulls are also shown below in Tables 3 and 4. The percentages per age group are recorded below.

Table 2
Aging Summary for Ring-billed Gulls

Age	*Number*	*Percent*
1st winter	262	35%
2nd winter	140	18%
Adult	353	47%
TOTAL	755	100%

Table 3
Aging Summary for Great Black-backed Gulls

Age	*Number*	*Percent*
1st winter	50	41%
2nd winter	13	11%
3rd winter	15	12%
Adult	44	36%
TOTAL	122	100%

Table 4
Aging Summary for Lesser Black-backed Gulls

Age	*Number*	*Percent*
1st winter	17	44%
2nd winter	2	5%
3rd winter	1	2.5%
Adult	18	46%
TOTAL	38	100%

The percentages are largely what would be expected, with perhaps the exception that slightly more 3rd winter Great Black-backed Gulls were seen than 2nd winter.

Rarities

Of course, birders are always hoping to find a rare, unusual, or out of season bird. Owing to the large number of gulls regularly passing through Schoolhouse Pond, it is a good place to look for rarities among the common gulls. Rare and unusual gulls spotted at the pond have included a Franklin's Gull (Stasz, October 2000), and a pure albino adult Ring-billed Gull (Stasz and Shaffer, March, 2002). The albino gull was truly an unexpected bird, with entirely pure white plumage and a pinkish-orange bill with a red ring (instead of the usual black). On January 26, 2001, a first winter Iceland Gull (Stasz and Shaffer) was observed on the ice of the pond. And, on January 4, 2002, both a 1st winter Thayer's Gull and 1st winter Glaucous Gull (Stasz and Shaffer) were present on the frozen ice of the pond, along with the hordes of the usual Herring and Ring-billed Gulls.

Pure albino Ring-billed Gull, March 27, 2002.

More recently, a 1st winter Iceland Gull was seen at Schoolhouse Pond on December 22, 2003. It was seen on the ice near a patch of open water with some Herring Gulls and Ring-billed Gulls. Later, as a nearby Herring Gull tried to gulp down its meal, the Iceland Gull snuck up from behind and stole the meal right out of the larger gull's beak! The Herring Gull responded by repeatedly pecking at the Iceland Gull so hard as to knock it through the ice. However, the offended gull was unable to retrieve its meal and the Iceland Gull went its way, apparently unharmed.

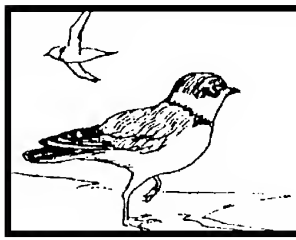
The winter of 2002/03 was no exception, and rare gulls were spotted on a number of occasions. I spotted an adult, winter plumage Thayer's Gull on the ice of School-house Pond on December 13, 2002. This bird stood out from the surrounding Herring and Ring-billed Gulls mainly by its bright pink legs and slightly darker shade of gray on the mantle, with subtle differences noted in shape and size. On January 12, 2003 Jim Stasz reported a first winter Iceland Gull on the pond. This was perhaps the same bird that had been reported several days

A first winter Ring-billed Gull is a common winter visitor to Schoolhouse Pond.

earlier at the Brown Station Road Landfill. No other Iceland Gulls were located at the pond for the remainder of the winter.

Bonaparte's Gulls are a rather unexpected sight at the pond. Occasionally one or two of these small gulls can be seen flying gracefully over the water hawking for insects. On some mornings, particularly in early spring, flyover flocks of 50 or so Bonaparte's occasionally pass by. During this past winter, Dave Mozurkewich reported a flyover flock of approximately 300 birds on December 1.

On February 3, several viewers were treated to close looks at a faded, 1st winter Glaucous Gull. This barrel-chested, white gull was seen on the edge of the ice next to some open water. Described by Kaufman as a big, pale, ghostly gull of the far north, the gull was noticeably larger and bulkier then the nearby Herring Gulls, and perhaps seemed even larger because of its almost completely pure white plumage. The large arctic gull seemed quite at home on the ice, which was lightly dusted with snow in some areas. Despite the comment from a passerby that the gull was a "rare rat on wings," I savored the Glaucous Gull as perhaps the highlight of a winter of gull watching.



THE SEASON

Robert F. Ringler

OBSERVERS, ABBREVIATIONS, & LOCATIONS MENTIONED IN THIS ISSUE

Observers: Barbara Albert, Terry Allen, George Armistead, Harry Armistead, Stan Arnold, Fred Atwood, Glenn Austin, Marcia Balestri, Mel Baughman, Tom Beal, Tyler Bell, Wayne Bell, Debby Bennett (reporting for Caroline Co.), Anne Bishop, Rick Blom, Jeff Boltz, Mike Bowen, Debbie Bowers, Ed Boyd, Gwen Brewer, Jim Brighton, Carol Broderick, Don Broderick, Don Burggraf, Fred Burggraf, Danny Bystrak, Mike Callahan, Rick Cheicante, J. B. Churchill, Barry Cooper, Dennis Coskren, Jane Coskren, Keith Costley, Scott Crabtree, Patty Craig (reporting for St. Mary's Co.), Marty Cribb, Ralph Cullison, Jon Cupp, Dave Czaplak, Dalcio Dacol, Lynn Davidson, Phil Davis, Joan DeCarli, Curtis Dew, Tina Dew, Bill Dobbins, Marian Dodson, Sam Droege, Sam Dyke, Don Eberly, Ward Ebert, Walter Ellison, Ethel Engle, Fred Fallon, David Farner, Jim Felley, Balduin Fischer, Leslie Fisher, Steve Ford, Jean Fry (reporting for Harford Co.), Larry Fry, Carol Ghebelian, Eric Gofreed, Shireen Gonzaga, Jim Gruber, Matt Hafner, Richard Hagenston, Sue Hamilton, Bill Harris, Clive Harris, Karen Harris, Tom Harten, Dave Harvey, Robert Hilton, Mark Hoffman, Hans Holbrook, Robert Holbrook, Emmalyn Holdridge, John Hubbell, Marshall Iliff, Ottavio Janni, Kye Jenkins, George Jett, Ray Kiddy, Elliot Kirschbaum, Nancy Kirschbaum, Jane Kostenko, John Landers, Dave Larkin, Ellen Lawler, Peter Lev, Glenn Lovelace, Gail Mackiernan, Nancy Magnusson, John Maloney, Tom Marko, Joel Martin, Nancy Martin, Sean McCandless, Elayne Metter, Jeff Metter, Mike Milton, Brian Monk, Dave Mozurkewich, Sue Neri, Steve Noyes, Michael O'Brien, Paul O'Brien, Daryl Olson, Bonnie Ott, Mary Paul, Jim Paulus, Dave Perry, Sherry Peruzzi, Jim Peters, Fred Pierce, Paul Pisano, Betty Pitney (reporting for Tri-County Bird Club), Danny Poet, Fran Pope, Dave Powell, Frank Powers, Phil Powers, Kyle Rambo, Jan Reese, Sue Ricciardi, Craig Richard, Bob Ringler, Arlene Ripley, Les Roslund, Denise Ryan, Steve Sanford, Fran Saunders, Norm Saunders, Gene Scarpulla, Lydia Schindler, Bill Schreitz, Kurt Schwarz, Sharon Schwemmer, Dave Seitz, Fred Shaffer, Lisa Shannon, Jay Sheppard, Janet Shields, Teresa Simons, Don Simonson, Gary Smyle, Jo Solem (reporting for Howard Co.), Duvall Sollers, Paul Spitzer, Jim Stasz, Herndon Steilkie, Tom Stock, Eva Sunell, Rick Sussman, Debbie Terry, Mary Ann Todd, Kate Tufts, June Tveekrem, Charlie Vaughn, Mark Wallace, Paul Walsh, Marcia Watson-Whitmyre, Dave Webb, Pete Webb, Dave Weesner, Hal Wierenga, Jordan Wilkerson, Jim Wilkinson, Levin Willey, Ray Wilson, Paul Woodward, Michele Wright, Helen Zeichner.

Abbreviations: AA – Anne Arundel Co., AL – Allegany Co.; APL – Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab, HO; BA – Baltimore Co.; BC – Baltimore City; CE – Cecil Co.; CH – Charles Co.; CL – Carroll Co.; CN – Caroline Co.; CT – Calvert Co.; DC – District of Columbia; DO – Dorchester Co.; EEC – Environmental Education Center; FR – Frederick Co.; GA – Garrett Co.; HA – Harford Co.; HO – Howard Co.; JEDS – Jean Ellen DuPont Shehan Audubon Sanctuary, TA; KE – Kent Co.; MO – Montgomery Co.; MPEA – Middle Patuxent Environmental Area, HO; NA – Natural Area; NEA – Natural Environment Area; NRMA – Natural Resources Management Area; NWR – National Wildlife Refuge; PG – Prince George's Co.; PRNAS – Patuxent River Naval Air Station, SM; PRR – Patuxent Research Refuge, PG; PVSP – Patapsco Valley State Park; QA – Queen Anne's Co.; RP – Regional

Park; SF – State Forest; SM – St. Mary's Co.; SO – Somerset Co.; SP – State Park; TA – Talbot Co.; UMCF – University of Maryland Central Farm, HO; WA – Washington Co.; WI – Wicomico Co.; WO – Worcester Co.; WMA – Wildlife Management Area; WWTP – Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Locations (followed by abbreviation of county): Aaron Run, GA; Aberdeen Proving Ground, HA; Allens Fresh, CH; Alpha Ridge, HO; American Chestnut Land Trust, CT; Anacostia Park, DC; Annapolis, AA; Ashton, MO; Assateague Island, WO; Back River, BA; Barren Island, DO; Beauvue, SM; Bel Air, HA; Belcamp, HA; Berlin, WO; Bethel WMA, CE; Beulah, DO; Bivalve, WI; Blackwalnut Point, TA; Blackwater NWR, DO; Bladensburg, PG; Blue Plains, DC; Bodkin Island, QA; Bowie, PG; Bozman, TA; Breeze Point Farm WWTP, CH; Bridge Creek, WI; Brighton Dam, HO/MO; Broad Creek, PG; Broadford Lake, GA; Brookview, DO; California, SM; Cambridge, DO; Carderock, MO; Centennial Park, HO; Centreville, QA; Chain Bridge, DC; Chesapeake Beach, CT; Chesapeake Farms, KE; Chestertown, KE; Chingville, SM; Choptank, CN; Claiborne, TA; Cliffs City Landing, KE; Cobb Island, CH; Columbia, HO; Cornfield Harbor, SM; Cranesville Swamp, GA; Crisfield, SO; Croom, PG; Cumberland, AL; Cylburn Arboretum, BC; Dameron, SM; Dans Mountain, AL; Deal Island WMA, SO; Deep Creek Lake, GA; Dunkirk, CT; E. A. Vaughn WMA, WO; Eastern Neck Island NWR, KE; Easton, TA; Elkton, CE; Ellicott City, HO; Elliott Island, DO; Elms Beach Park, SM; Ewell, SO; Fairlee, KE; Fairmount WMA, SO; Federalsburg, CN; Finzel Swamp, GA; Fishing Bay, DO; Flag Ponds Park, CT; Fletchers Boathouse, DC; Fort McHenry, BC; Fort Smallwood Park, AA; Four Mile Run, DC; Frederick, FR; Fulton, HO; George Island Landing, WO; Georgetown Reservoir, DC; Great Falls, MO; Great Oak Pond, KE; Greenbelt, PG; Greenbrier SP, WA; Greenbury Point, AA; Grove Neck WMA, CE; Hains Point, DC; Halethorpe Ponds, BA/AA; Hallmark, HO; Harford Glen EC, HA; Hart-Miller Dredged Material Containment Facility, BA; Havre de Grace, HA; Hebron, WI; Hollywood, SM; Hooper Island, DO; Horsehead Wetlands Center, QA; Hughes Hollow, MO; Hurlock, DO; Idylwild WMA, CN; Indian Creek WMA, CH; Irish Grove Sanctuary, SO; Jefferson Patterson Park, CT; Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary, AA; Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens, DC; Kenilworth Park, DC; Kent Island, QA; Kent Narrows, QA; Kent Point, QA; Kinder Farm Park, AA; Kingman Lake, DC; Lake Elkhorn, HO; Lake Kittamaqundi, HO; Lake Roland, BA; Lakeside Business Park, HA; Lapidum, HA; Layhill Park, MO; Leeds Creek, TA; Leonardtown, SM; Liberty Lake & Watershed, CL/BA; Lilypons, FR; Little Bennett RP, MO; Little Meadows Lake, GA; Little Seneca Lake, MO; Loch Raven Reservoir & Watershed, BA; Mariner Point Park, HA; Marriottsville, HO; CN; Mason Dixon Farm, FR; McKeldin Area PVSP, CL; Meadowbrook Park, HO; Merkle Wildlife Sanctuary, PG; Millington, KE; Morgantown, CH; Mount Calvert, PG; Mount Pleasant, HO; Mountain Lake Park, GA; Mystic Harbour, WO; Nanjemoy Creek, CH; Nanticoke, WI; National Arboretum, DC; Nolands Ferry, FR; North Beach, CT; North East, CE; North Point SP, BA; North Tract PRR, AA; Ocean City, WO; Ocean Pines, WO; Orange Grove Area PVSP, HO; Parsonsburg, WI; Perryville, CE; Pickering Creek Audubon Center, TA; Piney Reservoir, GA; Piney Run Park, CL; Piscataway Creek, PG; Pleasant Valley, GA; Pocomoke City, WO; Point Lookout SP, SM; Polish Mountain, AL; Pomonkey Creek, CH; Poplar Island, TA; Port Tobacco, CH; Purse SP, CH; Pylesville, HA; Queenstown, QA; Rachel Carson Park, MO; Ridge, SM; Ridgely, CN; Rigby's Folly, TA; Rileys Lock, MO; Roaring Point, WI; Rock Creek Park, DC; Rock Hall, KE; Rockburn Branch Park, HO; Rockville, MO; Rocky Gap SP, AL; Roosevelt Island, DC; Salisbury, WI; Sandy Hook, WA; Sandy Point SP, AA; Schooley Mill Park, HO; Scientists Cliffs, CT; Scotland, SM; Seneca, MO; Silver Spring, MO; Smith Island, SO; Soldiers Delight, BA; Solomons, CT; St. Mary's River SP, SM; St. Michaels, TA; Swallow Falls SP, GA; Swan Harbor Farm, HA; Sycamore Landing, MO; Tangier Sound, SO; Tanyard, CN; Taylors Island, DO; Taylors Landing, WO; Terrapin Nature Area, QA; Tilghman Island, TA; Triadelphia Reservoir, HO/MO; Trout Run WWTP, GA; Truitts Landing, WO; Tunis Mills, TA; Turkey Point, CE; Tyaskin, WI; Upper Marlboro, PG; Upper Watts Branch Park, MO; Violettes Lock, MO; Waldorf, CH; Washington Monument SP, WA; Webster, HA; West Ocean City, WO; Western RP, HO; Westminster, CL; Wilde Lake, HO; Willards, WI; Wootons Landing, AA; Worton, KE.

WINTER: DECEMBER 1, 2001–FEBRUARY 28, 2002

It was a very mild season. Many species that usually depart when winter sets in remained through the season. Waterbirds were particularly notable as waterways remained open.

Loons, Grebes. Reports of Red-throated Loons included one at Hart-Miller Island on Dec. 1-15 (Scarpulla +), two at Eastern Neck on Dec. 19 (Iliff, Hafner), one at Loch Raven on Jan. 14 (Lev), and one on Mill Creek near Annapolis on Feb. 16-22 (Schreitz). Cribb found 80 of the 94 Red-throated Loons on the Point Lookout CBC on Dec. 23 while boating in the Chesapeake Bay and the mouth of the Potomac River off Point Lookout that day. On the coast Stasz counted 162 Red-throated Loons on Jan. 12 off Assateague and 55 were at Ocean City on Feb. 3 (Reese, W. Bell). Kiddy saw 10 late-migrating Common Loons flying over Finzel on Dec. 9 and many others remained through the season with 15 at Taylors Island on Jan. 21 (H. Holbrook), two at Triadelphia on Feb. 7 (Tufts), four at Crisfield on Feb. 9 (H. Armistead), and 15 at Point Lookout on Feb. 21 (Nolan Stokes). Highs for Pied-billed Grebes included 20 at Piscataway Creek on Dec. 17 (Eberly) and 50 at Loch Raven on Jan. 6 (Terry). A Red-necked Grebe, rare at this time, was reported on the St. Michaels CBC on Dec. 16 (W. Bell, Spitzer). Two Western Grebes were seen near Kent Narrows on Jan. 12-13 (P. Webb +).

Gannets, Pelicans, Cormorants. Chesapeake Bay sightings of Northern Gannets were numerous with three at Tilghman Island on Dec. 2 (Reese), seven at North Beach on Dec. 5 (Shaffer), eight at Cobb Island on Dec. 8 (Jett +), one near the Bay Bridge and eight off Kent Point on Dec. 8 (Ringler +), 13 off Dorchester Co. on Jan. 1 (Stasz), 50 at Point Lookout on Feb. 25 (Craig), and 24 off Flag Ponds on Feb. 26 (Ripley). All of these were dwarfed on the day of the Point Lookout CBC on Dec. 23 when 1,302 were tallied, including 800 by Cribb who was boating off the point that day. Cribb also accounted for 120 of the 127 Brown Pelicans sighted Dec. 23 during the same count. Other Chesapeake Bay reports of Brown Pelicans were one at Waterview, WI on Dec. 28 (C. & D. Broderick), four at PRNAS on Feb. 12 (Craig), five at Solomons on Feb. 16 (Craig), and one at Point Lookout on Feb. 23 (P. Webb +). Double-crested Cormorants remained in sizeable numbers into the winter with 45 in Charles Co. at Allens Fresh, Morgantown, and Cobb Island (Jett +), 115 tallied on the Annapolis CBC on Dec. 31 (Wierenga +), one at Hains Point on Jan. 2 (Hubbell), one at Leonardtown on Feb. 1 (Craig), one at Cuckold Point, BA on Feb. 3 (Blom, Monk), 12 at Ocean City on Feb. 3 (Reese, W. Bell), and one at Upper Marlboro on Feb. 26 (Shaffer), the latter possibly an early spring migrant. Notable reports of Great Cormorants were four at Hart-Miller on Dec. 15 (Scarpulla, Jim Potyraj), two off Eastern Neck on Dec. 19 (Iliff, Hafner), 23 on the Annapolis CBC on Dec. 30 (Wierenga +), one at Salisbury on Jan. 2 (Dyke), one off Rock Hall on Jan. 5 (Stasz), and six at Ocean City on Feb. 3 (Reese, W. Bell).

Herons, Ibis, Vultures. Reports of American Bitterns were four at Deal Island WMA on Jan. 11 (Stasz), one at Taylors Landing on Jan. 12 (Stasz), one at Bridge Creek on Jan. 24 (Iliff, Hafner), and one at Horsehead on Feb. 9 (Hubbell). Great Blue Herons began preliminary nesting activities very early this year. Activity was noted at three sites in Howard Co. on Jan. 26 (fide Solem), at nests in Port Tobacco on Jan. 31 (Callahan), and at nests at Great Falls on Feb. 1 (Schindler). Great Egrets survived well this mild winter: four remained at Upper Marlboro throughout the season (Shaffer +), one was at Cornfield Harbor on Dec. 23 (Iliff, Hafner), 20 were at Deal Island WMA on Dec. 29 (Ringler) with 11 there on Feb. 20 (Dyke) and seven on Feb. 26 (Stock), one was at Piscataway through Jan. 1 (Jett, Brewer, Gofreed), one was at Elliott on Jan. 13 (H. Armistead), and one was at Broad Creek on Jan. 26 (Shaffer +). Arnold found one Snowy Egret at West Ocean City on Dec. 8 and there were two at Deal

Island WMA on Jan. 11 (Stasz). Rare for the season was an immature Little Blue Heron at Rhodes Point, Smith Island on Feb. 10 (H. Armistead). Tricolored Herons did well at Deal Island WMA with 49 there on Jan. 11 (Stasz) and 20 seen on Feb. 20 (Dyke); others were five at Ocean City on Jan. 26 (Lovelace) and Feb. 3 (Reese, W. Bell), and, at Smith Island, one at Ewell and three at Rhodes Point on Feb. 10 (H. Armistead). On Jan. 11 Stasz also counted 22 Black-crowned Night-Herons at Deal Island WMA where three Glossy Ibis were seen on Dec. 29 (Ringler) through Jan. 13 (Dyke). Interesting reports of Black Vultures were six flying over Cumberland on Dec. 15 (Paulus) and 85 at Bozman on Feb. 17 (Reese), perhaps late fall and early spring migrants respectively.

Geese, Swans. A Greater White-fronted Goose was seen at Pocomoke City on Dec. 26 (Hoffman) and probably the same bird was in a field a few miles away on Jan. 15 (Iliff, G. Armistead); others were one at Willards on Dec. 28 (H. Holbrook), one at Worton on Jan. 5 (Stasz), and two near Centreville on Jan. 27 (Wierenga, Davidson) with one there on Feb. 9 (Hafner, H. Holbrook). All were described as probably the Greenland race. Inland reports of Snow Geese were 13 at Rachel Carson Park on Dec. 1 (Sussman), one blue morph bird at APL and nearby Fulton on Dec. 8 through Feb. 3 (Magnusson +), and four, including two blues, at Broadford Lake on Dec. 15-22 (Pope). A bird resembling a blue morph Snow Goose at Kingman Lake on Feb. 15-25 (Paul, Pisano) may have been a hybrid Blue Goose X Canada Goose. Reports of Ross's Geese were one at Scarboro, WO on Dec. 27 (Wilson), one at Willards on Dec. 28 (H. Holbrook), one at Baileys Neck, TA on Jan. 2 (Reese), one at Blackwater on Jan. 13 (H. Armistead), and two near Hebron on Feb. 17 (C. & D. Broderick). Small race Canada Geese were noted as follows: one at Willards on Dec. 29 (H. Holbrook), one at Centennial on Jan. 5-8 (Magnusson +), 13 throughout Cecil Co. on Jan. 16 (Iliff, Hafner), one at Sassafras River NRMA, KE on Feb. 17 (H. Armistead), and one near Centreville on Feb. 22 (H. Holbrook). An immature Brant at Merkle on Jan. 12 (Mozurkewich) was out of place. Two Mute Swans were seen in Monrovia, FR in late January and early February (J. & C. McDaniel). The 42 Tundra Swans flying over DC on Dec. 29 (Hilton) were probably late migrants; the high count for the season was 760 at Eastern Neck on Feb. 17 (H. Armistead).

Puddle Ducks. Wintering Wood Ducks included one at Great Falls on Jan. 5 (Hubbell), one at Vantage Point, Columbia on Jan. 19 (Zeichner), at least four at MPEA on Feb. 1 (H. Holbrook), and two at Bridge Creek on Feb. 2 (Stasz). The two Wood Ducks at Roosevelt Island on Feb. 16 (Hubbell), the five at Hollywood on Feb. 22 (Rambo), and two at Pylesville on Feb. 26 (L. Fry) may have been early spring migrants. Gadwalls were present in above average numbers with 50 at Piscataway Creek on Jan. 1 (Jett, Brewer, Gofreed), 850 at Perryville on Jan. 16 (Iliff, Hafner), and 138 at Galena, KE on Feb. 17 (H. Armistead). A Eurasian Wigeon was at Assateague on Dec. 2-28 (Dyke +), at least one was at Deal Island WMA on Feb. 12 through the end of the period (C. & D. Broderick +) with three there on Feb. 20 (Dyke), one was at Upper Marlboro on Feb. 22-26 (Bystrak +), and one was on the Susquehanna River at Lapidum on Feb. 23 (Stasz); all were males. High counts of American Wigeon were 83 at Piney Run on Jan. 6 (Ringler) and 202 at Loch Raven on Feb. 3 (Jenkins). The high for American Black Ducks was 170 at Eastern Neck on Feb. 17 (Ellison) and for Mallards 250 at Trout Run on Jan. 5 (Pope), 355 at Cambridge on Jan. 13 (H. Armistead), and 300 at Bridge Creek on Feb. 2 (Stasz). Hybrid American Black Duck X Mallard drakes were two at Hart-Miller on Dec. 1-15 (Scarpulla +), two along the C&O Canal in Washington Co. on Jan. 26 (Woodward), and at least one at Deal Island WMA on Feb. 23 (H. Holbrook, Brighton). Winter sightings of Blue-winged Teal were a female at Hart-Miller on Dec. 1 (Scarpulla, Ricciardi), a female at Chain Bridge on Dec. 25-29 (Hubbell), a male at Hughes Hollow on Dec. 29 (Woodward), and two at Sycamore Landing on Jan. 1 (Woodward). Hoffman found

135 Northern Shovelers at Pocomoke City on Dec. 26; one at Chain Bridge on Feb. 16-23 (Hubbell) was unusual there. High numbers of Northern Pintails were 65 near Centreville on Dec. 8 (Ringler +), 410 at Blackwater on Jan. 13 (H. Armistead), and 16 at Bridge Creek on Feb. 2 (Stasz); unusual was one on the C&O Canal in Washington Co. on Jan. 26 (Woodward). Highs for Green-winged Teal were 78 at Loch Raven on Dec. 16 (Terry, Lev), 70 at E. A. Vaughn WMA on Jan. 12 (Stasz), and 60 at Bridge Creek on Feb. 2 (Stasz).

Diving Ducks. High counts of Canvasbacks were 870 at Cambridge on Jan. 13 (H. Armistead), 600 at Fishing Bay on Jan. 26 (H. Armistead), and 1,000 at Back River on Feb. 3 (Blom, Monk); a female at Broadford Lake on Feb. 9 (Pope) was unusual there. Eight Redheads on the Potomac River in DC on Jan. 2 (Hubbell) were notable but these were outnumbered by the 1,000 at Roaring Point on Jan. 11 (Stasz), 1,250 at Fishing Bay on Jan. 26 (H. Armistead), and 119 at Loch Raven on Feb. 3 (Jenkins). Highs for Ring-necked Ducks were 900 at Little Seneca Lake on Jan. 5 (P. O'Brien) and 350 on Schumaker Pond in Salisbury on Jan. 11 (Stasz). There were 1,535 Greater Scaup at Hart-Miller on Feb. 2 (Scarpulla, Jenkins) and 300 at Point Lookout on Feb. 25 (Craig). Lesser Scaup numbered 500 at Breeze Point Farm WWTP on Dec. 8 (Jett +), 2,000 at Roaring Point on Jan. 11 (Stasz), and 15,000 at Back River on Feb. 3 (Blom, Monk). Sightings of Harlequin Ducks were two at Ocean City on Dec. 8-9 (Arnold), one female flying past Cornfield Harbor on Dec. 23 (Iliff, Hafner), and a drake at Ocean City on Feb. 10 (N. & F. Saunders). Inland Surf Scoters were three at Little Seneca Lake on Dec. 8 (Czaplak) and one at Triadelphia on Jan. 5 (Holdridge, Magnusson, Cullison); a seasonal high of 1,650 was at Assateague on Jan. 12 (Stasz). Reports of White-winged Scoters were one at Point Lookout on Dec. 9 (Craig), nine at Blackwalnut Point on Feb. 2 (Stasz), and one at Cambridge on Feb. 9 (Hafner +). Rare sightings of Long-tailed Ducks were one at Georgetown Reservoir on Dec. 8 (Hubbell +), one on the Anacostia River, DC on Dec. 15 (Bowen +), and two at Triadelphia Reservoir on Feb. 2 (Magnusson); highs were 450 off Rigby's Folly on Jan. 27 (H. Armistead) and 600 at Blackwalnut Point on Feb. 2 (Stasz). There were 1,875 Buffleheads seen off Rigby's Folly on Dec. 6 (H. Armistead). Ellison counted 134 Common Goldeneyes at Eastern Neck on Feb. 10. The high for Hooded Mergansers was 86 at Piney Run on Jan. 6 (Ringler). The biggest flock of Common Mergansers was 465 at Triadelphia on Jan. 5 (Magnusson, Cullison); rare in Worcester Co. were one at Public Landing on Jan. 26 (Lovelace) and one at George Island Landing on Feb. 17 (Hoffman). On Feb. 25 Craig counted 82 Red-breasted Mergansers at Point Lookout. Highs for Ruddy Ducks were 935 at Fishing Bay on Jan. 26 (H. Armistead), 500 at Back River and 1,500 at Edgemere, BA on Feb. 3 (Blom, Monk), and 2,000 at Horsehead on Feb. 22 (H. Holbrook).

Diurnal Raptors. Wintering Ospreys included one at Royal Oak, TA on Dec. 16 (Ford, Don Meritt), one at Leeds Creek on Dec. 16 (W. Bell, Spitzer) and again on Jan. 27 (Roslund), one on the Potomac River in DC on Dec. 22 (Janni, Hilton, Shannon), and two at Scotland on Jan. 30 (Cribb); early spring migrants were one at Blue Plains on Feb. 21 (Callahan) and two at Leonardtown on Feb. 27 (Craig). Notable Bald Eagles were five at Triadelphia on Jan. 5-6 (Magnusson, Cullison +) with a pair at a nest there on Feb. 2 (Magnusson) and seven at Hart-Miller on Feb. 2 (Scarpulla, Jenkins). Stasz saw eight Northern Harriers at Marshall Point, PG on Jan. 12. The only reports of Northern Goshawk were one at PRNAS on Jan. 7 (Rambo), an immature at Creswell, HA on Feb. 9 (Cheicante), and an immature at Washington Monument SP on Feb. 24 (Weesner). Single Rough-legged Hawks, all dark morphs, were at Cumberland on Dec. 15 (Paulus), UMCF on Dec. 15 (Ott, Holdridge), in Wicomico Co. near Vienna on Jan. 18 (C. & D. Broderick), at Tuscarora, FR on Feb. 4 (H. Holbrook), and at Elliott through Feb. 17 (Jenkins). Paulus saw two adult Golden Eagles over Polish Mountain on Dec. 31,

one was near Cambridge on Jan. 25 (Balestri, Smyle, Shields), an immature was at Elliott on Jan. 26 (H. Armistead), and an adult was north of Centreville on Feb. 27 (Ellison). Reports of Merlins included three at Hains Point on Dec. 9 (Hilton), one at Point Lookout on Dec. 9 (Craig), one at Pikesville, BA on Dec. 31 (Costley), one at George Island Landing on Jan. 12 (Stasz), and one at Mystic Harbour on Feb. 10 (N. & F. Saunders). A Peregrine Falcon was seen at Wootons Landing on Dec. 9 (Milton) and another was at Kinder Farm Park on Jan. 1 (Farner, Brian Campbell).

Pheasant, Turkeys, Rallids, Cranes. Ring-necked Pheasant has declined markedly in most of the state and reports have become fewer as a result, so one at Thomas Run, HA on Dec. 23 (D. Webb) is notable. Conversely, sightings of Wild Turkeys have increased dramatically. Reports this season included 13 in Frederick Co. near Washington Monument SP on Dec. 1 (Weesner), 14 near Warfieldsburg, CL on Dec. 9 (fide Terry), 45 at Nanticoke on Jan. 11 (Stasz), 14 at Waddells Corner, CN on Jan. 11 (Engle), 21 near Stockton, WO on Jan. 29 (Sanford), 20 near Jug Bay on Feb. 12 (H. Holbrook), 16 near Bradenbaugh, HA on Feb. 18 (Jean & Kristen Kirkwood), and 41 near Bucktown, DO on Feb. 23 (H. Holbrook, Brighton). Eleven Clapper Rails were counted at Smith Island on Feb. 9 (H. Armistead). Single King Rails were heard near Savanna Lake, DO on Jan. 26 (H. Armistead) and at Bridge Creek on Feb. 2 (Stasz). A Virginia Rail was at Wetipquin, WI on Jan. 11 (Stasz) and two were heard at Easton on Jan. 29 (Roslund). Flocks of American Coots included 1,500 at Loch Raven on Dec. 9 (Jenkins), 450 at Deep Creek Lake on Dec. 15 (Pope), 375 at the mouth of Four Mile Run on Jan. 1 (Pisano), 300 at Piney Run on Jan. 6 (Ringler), and 700 at Swan Harbor Farm on Feb. 17 (Larkin). Two Sandhill Cranes were reported flying over Loch Raven on Dec. 17 by Carole Schreter, Adriana Masiarova, and Paula Warner.

Shorebirds. A Black-bellied Plover at Hart-Miller on Dec. 1 (Scarpulla, Ricciardi) was a late migrant. American Oystercatchers numbered 32 at Ocean City on Feb. 3 (Reese, W. Bell). Wintering Greater Yellowlegs were 28 at George Island Landing on Jan. 12 (Stasz), 31 at Bestpitch, DO on Jan. 13 (H. Armistead), three at Elliott on Jan. 26 (H. Armistead), four at Ocean City on Feb. 3 (Reese, W. Bell), one near Crisfield on Feb. 9 (H. Armistead), and one at Ewell on Feb. 10 (H. Armistead). Lesser Yellowlegs attempting to spend the winter included one at Jug Bay on Dec. 27 (Bystrak), five at Drawbridge, DO on Jan. 1 (Stasz), one at Bestpitch, DO on Jan. 13 (H. Armistead), 42 at Elliott on Feb. 9 (Stasz) with 30 there on Feb. 23 (H. Holbrook, Brighton), and two at Deal Island WMA on Feb. 26 (Stock). A Willet of the western subspecies was at Assateague on Feb. 16 (Stasz). A late Spotted Sandpiper was at Isle of Wight, WO on Dec. 28-29 (Ricciardi, Hamilton +). Two Ruddy Turnstones and 18 Purple Sandpipers were at Smith Island on Feb. 10 (H. Armistead). Sanderlings wintering on the Chesapeake included eight at Benoni Point, TA on Dec. 16 (H. Armistead, Ringler), nine at Smith Island on Feb. 10 (H. Armistead), 18 at Tilghman Island (with 25 Dunlins) on Feb. 11 (Wayne Brown), four at PRNAS on Feb. 13 (Craig), and 18 at Flag Ponds on Feb. 26 (Ripley). Three Least Sandpipers were at Ridgely on Dec. 15 (Stasz, Ricciardi +) and 14 were at Deal Island WMA on Feb. 23 (H. Holbrook, Brighton). Reports of Long-billed Dowitchers were three at Elliott on Jan. 26 (H. Armistead) with seven there on Feb. 9 (Stasz) and three at Shorters Wharf, DO on Feb. 9 (Lovelace). Notable reports of Common Snipe were 14 at Lilypons on Dec. 3 (Jenkins), 20 on the Chicamacomico River, DO on Dec. 21 (Jenkins), 10 at North Tract PRR on Dec. 23 (Feild), one at Kingman Lake on Jan. 16 (Paul), nine at Broad Creek on Jan. 26 (Shaffer +), and two at Sunshine, MO on Feb. 17 (Sussman). Arnold found six American Woodcocks at Annapolis Rock, HO on Feb. 12 and nine there on the 19th.

Jaeger, Gulls. A dark immature Pomarine Jaeger was seen at Ocean City on Jan. 12 (Stasz). Laughing Gulls lingered into this season in significant numbers and some may have

wintered. Seventeen were at Hart-Miller on Dec. 1 (Scarpulla, Ricciardi) with one there on Dec. 15 (Scarpulla, Jim Potyraj), two at Morgantown and one at Cobb Island on Dec. 8 (Jett +), 200 on the Anacostia River, DC on Dec. 9 (Hilton) with one remaining at Anacostia Park on Jan. 5 (Bowen), two at Upper Marlboro on Jan. 28 (Shaffer), one at Cambridge on Feb. 10 (N. & F. Saunders), and one at St. George Island, SM on Feb. 11 (Craig). On Dec. 8 late migrating Bonaparte's Gulls were seen in several widespread areas: five at Triadelphia (Schwarz), one at Breeze Point Farm WWTP (Jett +), one at Cumberland and six at Rocky Gap (Kiddy), and seven at Broadford Lake (Pope) followed by one at Loch Raven on Dec. 9 (Jenkins), 12 at Deal Island WMA on Dec. 29 (Ringler), and three at Anacostia Park on Dec. 29 (Hilton, Pisano). Local high counts of Ring-billed Gulls were 165 at Cumberland on Dec. 8 (Kiddy), 3,000 at Queenstown on Jan. 28 (Reese), and 3,000 at Beulah on Feb. 28 (H. Armistead). A first-winter California Gull was found at the Cecil County Landfill near North East on Feb. 9 (Blom, Scarpulla, Cullison). About 875 Herring Gulls were at Beulah on Feb. 28 (H. Armistead). Single first-winter Thayer's Gulls were seen at Upper Marlboro on Jan. 4 (Stasz) and Feb. 7 (Shaffer), at Salisbury on Jan. 15 (Iliff, G. Armistead), and at Beulah on Jan. 31 (Hafner) and Feb. 2 (Stasz). An adult Iceland Gull was at Upper Marlboro on Jan. 2 (Shaffer), a first-winter bird was at Salisbury on Jan. 11-24 (Stasz +), a third-winter bird was at Beulah on Jan. 25 (Iliff), and a first-winter bird was at Beulah on Feb. 9-28 (Hafner +). Lesser Black-backed Gulls were numerous, especially at landfills; notable sightings were an adult at Violettes Lock on Dec. 8 through Feb. 27 (Czaplak +), seven at Salisbury on Dec. 28 (C. & D. Broderick), two at Ocean City on Dec. 29 through Feb. 3 (H. Holbrook, Brighton +), three adults in DC at Kenilworth Park, River Terrace Park, and Georgetown Reservoir on Jan. 5 (Bowen), one adult at Eastern Neck on Jan. 13 (N. & F. Saunders), one at Westover, SO on Jan. 11 (Stasz), an adult at Horsehead on Jan. 14 (Davis), nine (three first-winter, two second-winter, four adults) at Salisbury on Jan. 24 (Iliff, Hafner), ten (six first-winter, one second-winter, one third-winter, two adults) at Beulah on Jan. 25 (Iliff), an adult at Jug Bay on Feb. 9 (Ricciardi), 12 (one second-winter, two third-winter, one fourth-winter, eight adults) at the Cecil County Landfill on Feb. 9 (Blom, Scarpulla, Cullison), two at Upper Marlboro and one first-winter at Jug Bay on Feb. 12 (H. Holbrook), and one adult at West Ocean City on Feb. 16 (P. Webb +). A first-winter bird that appeared to be a hybrid Herring Gull X Lesser Black-backed Gull was at Salisbury on Jan. 15-24 (Iliff, G. Armistead +). Single first-year and second-year Glaucous Gulls were at Salisbury on Dec. 16 (C. & D. Broderick) and an adult was there on Jan. 11 (Stasz). Other Glaucous Gulls, all single first-winter birds, were at Mystic Harbour on Dec. 27 (N. & F. Saunders), Upper Marlboro on Jan. 4 (Stasz), Beulah on Jan. 15 through Feb. 9 (Iliff, G. Armistead +), and Jug Bay on Feb. 9 (Ricciardi). The Kelp Gull at Sandgates, SM was seen throughout the period (many observers). An adult Black-legged Kittiwake was seen off Assateague on Jan. 12 (Stasz).

Terns. A Royal Tern at North Beach on Dec. 16 (Stasz) was very late; two at Ocean City on Feb. 3 (Reese, W. Bell) were the first for mid winter. Forster's Terns lingered in great numbers at Ocean City where 1,100 were found on the Dec. 28 CBC (fide Sheppard), 20 were seen there on Jan. 29 (Sanford) and 40 on Feb. 17 (Hoffman +). Elsewhere 20 Forster's were at Hart-Miller on Dec. 1 (Scarpulla, Ricciardi), nine at Morgantown on Dec. 8 (Jett +), eight at Tilghman Island on Dec. 23 (Reese), one at Eastern Neck on Jan. 25 (Balestri, Smyle, Shields) and on Feb. 10 (Ellison), one at Leonardtown on Feb. 8 (Craig), and six near Ragged Point, DO on Feb. 9 (Hafner, H. Holbrook, Brighton).

Owls, Flickers. A Barn Owl was seen at Bridge Creek on Feb. 2 (Stasz) and another was at Annapolis Rock, HO on Feb. 2 (Sheppard) and Feb. 16 (Ott, Holdridge). A Snowy Owl was seen at Garrett Heights Elementary School in Hamilton, BC on Dec. 27 (Landers +) and one was photographed at Assateague on Feb. 11 (N. & F. Saunders). Sheppard found

three Long-eared Owls at Annapolis Rock, HO on Feb. 2 and four there on the 24th. Reports of Short-eared Owls included three at Shorters Wharf, DO on Dec. 1 (Arnold +), one at Deal Island WMA on Dec. 29 (Ringler) and Jan. 11 (Stasz), one at Marshall Point, PG on Dec. 12 (Stasz), one at Cherry Hill Park, BC on Jan. 22 (Costley), four at Elliott on Jan. 26 (H. Armistead), and one at Irish Grove on Feb. 19 (J. Martin). Reports of Northern Saw-whet Owls were all single birds: picked up at Dameron on Dec. 5 and later died (Bishop), near Triadelphia, HO on Dec. 8 (Magnusson), at Bowie on Jan. 1 (Fallon), at the National Wildlife Visitors Center, PG on Jan. 2 (Fallon), roadkill near Wye Mills, TA on Jan. 25 (Iliff), in Garrett Co. on Feb. 9 (Churchill), and at Assateague on Feb. 16 (Hoffman +). About 20 Northern Flickers were at Vessey's Orchard, SO on Jan. 15 (Iliff, G. Armistead).

Flycatchers, Shrike, Corvids, Swallows. Post-CBC Eastern Phoebes were single birds at the National Arboretum on Jan. 6 through Feb. 3 (Pisano +), Hughes Hollow on Jan. 6 through Feb. 17 (Hubbell +), Centennial on Jan. 7 (Farner), near Vessey's Orchard, SO on Jan. 15 (Iliff, G. Armistead), Parsonsburg on Jan. 22 (Pitney), St. Mary's River SP on Jan. 27 (Craig), Easton on Jan. 29 (Roslund), and near Beachville, SM on Feb. 28 (Craig). The latter bird may have been an early spring migrant. An Ash-throated Flycatcher was seen and photographed at Chesapeake Farms from Dec. 16 to late in the month (Gruber +). A Western Kingbird was at Eastern Neck on Dec. 9 through Jan. 27 (McCandless +). An adult Northern Shrike was at Finzel on Dec. 9-15 (Kiddy +). About 190 Fish Crows were at Beulah on Feb. 28 (H. Armistead). Paulus saw three Common Ravens at Cumberland on Dec. 15. The 13 Tree Swallows at Deal Island WMA on Dec. 29 (Ringler) were probably wintering but spring migration began early this year and the eight there on Feb. 12 (C. & D. Broderick) and two on Feb. 23 (H. Holbrook, Brighton) may have been in that category. Also likely spring migrants were three Tree Swallows at Jug Bay on Feb. 21 (Bystrak), four at Grove Neck WMA on Feb. 24 (Stasz), 30 at Violettes Lock on Feb. 27 (Czaplak), and 12 at Hughes Hollow on Mar. 3 (Sussman).

Chickadee, Nuthatches, Wrens, Gnatcatcher. The only out-of-range Black-capped Chickadee reported was near Frederick on Jan. 1 (Balestri). A White-breasted Nuthatch at Taylors Island on Jan. 1 (Stasz) was a rarity there. A Brown-headed Nuthatch heard at Jefferson Patterson Park on Jan. 28 (T. Bell) was north of its known range. Wintering House Wrens were one at Patuxent River Park, PG on Jan. 12 (Mozurkewich), one at Catonsville, BA through Feb. 7 (Blom), one at Harwood, AA on Feb. 23 (Kathie Lambert), and one at Kenilworth Park on Mar. 2 (Hubbell). Hilton and Shannon found a Marsh Wren singing at Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens on Dec. 1, five were at Wetipquin, WI on Jan. 11 (Stasz), and one was heard at Jug Bay on Feb. 22 (Bystrak). A tardy Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was at Perryville on Dec. 5 (Jenkins).

Robins, Mimids, Pipits, Waxwings. Concentrations of American Robins included 110 at St. Michaels on Jan. 5 (Reese) and 600 at PRNAS on Feb. 10 (Rambo). A robin seen at Parsonsburg on Jan. 24 (Iliff, Hafner) may have been of the black-backed subspecies nigrideus. Wintering Gray Catbirds included three at Hart-Miller on Dec. 29, one there on Jan. 26 (Scarpulla +), two at Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens on Jan. 2-5 (Hubbell +), one on the lower Susquehanna River, HA on Jan. 5 (Cheicante, Larkin), one at Centennial on Jan. 7 (Farner), one at Eastern Neck on Jan. 25 (Balestri, Smyle, Shields), and one at Point Lookout on Feb. 23 (P. Webb +). A Northern Mockingbird was seen at Oakland, GA for a couple of weeks to Dec. 5 (fide Pope). Reports of Brown Thrashers were one at Glenn Dale, PG on Dec. 4 (Beal), one at Cobb Island on Dec. 8 (Jett +), two at Hart-Miller on Dec. 29 (Scarpulla, Bystrak, Boltz), one at Parsonsburg through Jan. 3 (Pitney), one at Tunis Mills on Jan. 4 into

March (Roslund), one at MPEA on Jan. 8 (H. Holbrook) and Feb. 17 (Ott), one at Rigby's Folly on Jan. 12 (H. Armistead), one at Schooley Mill Park on Jan. 30 (Craig Sholley), one at Point Lookout on Feb. 23 (P. Webb +), one at Preston, CN on Feb. 25-28 (Engle), and one at Upper Marlboro on Feb. 26 (Shaffer). Most surprising of all was a Brown Thrasher found at Mountain Lake Park on Dec. 15 that remained at least through Mar. 16 (Pope +). Flocks of American Pipits included 100 near Cambridge on Dec. 1 (Arnold +), 120 at UMCF on Dec. 15 (Ott, Holdridge), 28 at E. A. Vaughn WMA on Jan. 12 (Stasz), and 150 near Federalsburg on Jan. 20 (H. Holbrook). Flocks of Cedar Waxwings were 300 at Newburg, CH on Dec. 8 (Jett +), 120 at Chestertown on Jan. 31 (Ellison), and 200 at Hickory Ridge, Columbia on Feb. 3 (Pierce). A waxwing with an orange-tipped tail was seen at Columbia on Dec. 31 (Jeff Friedhoffer).

Warblers, Tanager. Reports of Orange-crowned Warblers were one at Cornfield Harbor on Dec. 23 (Iliff), one at Greenbury Point from Dec. 30 through Jan. 2 (fide Ricciardi), one near RFK Stadium, DC on Feb. 15 (Richard), and one at the National Arboretum on Feb. 9-25 (Milton +). An immature Northern Parula was a surprise at Fort McHenry from Dec. 29 through Jan. 24 (Peters +). Post-CBC Pine Warblers were one near Federalsburg on Jan. 20 (H. Holbrook), two at Blackwater on Jan. 21 (H. Holbrook), one at Willards on Jan. 24 (Iliff, Hafner), one at Easton on Jan. 25 (Iliff), one at Smithville, CN on Feb. 9 (Lovelace), and one at Dameron through the season that grew to two or three singing on Feb. 14 (Craig), suggesting some migration had taken place. Migrant Pine Warblers elsewhere on Feb. 26 included one or two on the Mall, DC (Felley), several singing at Jefferson Patterson Park (T. Bell), and one at Flag Ponds (Ripley). Two Palm Warblers, at least one of which was a western, were at Kenilworth Park on Dec. 15 (Bowen), a western was near Rehobeth, SO on Jan. 15 (Iliff, G. Armistead), and six were in the Ocean City area on Feb. 3 (Reese, W. Bell). A Black-and-white Warbler was seen at Heritage Island, DC on Jan. 25 (Kevin Brittingham). Wintering Common Yellowthroats were three at Hart-Miller on Dec. 29 (Scarpulla, Bystrak, Boltz), one at Anacostia Park on Jan. 2-5 (Hubbell +), two near Ellis Bay WMA, WI on Jan. 11 (Stasz), an immature male at Jug Bay on Feb. 22 (Bystrak), and one near Ridgely on Feb. 23 (Reese, Steilkie). A Yellow-breasted Chat was at the Congressional Cemetery, DC on Jan. 4 through Feb. 11 (Richard +) and one was at Lake Roland on Feb. 9 (E. & N. Kirschbaum). A male Western Tanager was at Sandy Spring, MO on Dec. 15-22 (Dave & Elaine Pardoe +).

Sparrows. Wintering Chipping Sparrows were one at the National Arboretum on Jan. 6 (Pisano +), 14 at West Friendship, HO on Jan. 6-8, six there on Feb. 18 (Cullison), two near Chingville on Jan. 12 (C. & T. Dew), 50 near Federalsburg on Jan. 20 (H. Holbrook), one at Blackwater on Jan. 21 (H. Holbrook), 43 at Parsonsburg on Jan. 24 (Iliff, Hafner), one at Eastern Neck on Feb. 17 (Ellison), and one near Ridgely on Feb. 23 (Reese, Steilkie). Rare in winter, a Vesper Sparrow was found near Shelltown, SO on Jan. 15 (Iliff, G. Armistead). About 50 Savannah Sparrows were at Dameron on Jan. 29 (Craig). Very rare in winter, a Grasshopper Sparrow was at E. A. Vaughn WMA on Dec. 30 and Feb. 17 (Hoffman). A Le Conte's Sparrow was once again at E. A. Vaughn WMA at least through Mar. 6 (Shaffer). Stasz found four Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows and one Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow at Taylors Landing on Jan. 12. A Seaside Sparrow was at Ewell on Feb. 9 (H. Armistead). High counts of Fox Sparrows were 17 at Point Lookout on Jan. 3 (Craig) and 22 at Meadowbrook on Feb. 16 (Ott). Craig estimated 250 Song Sparrows and 80 Swamp Sparrows at Dameron on Jan. 29. Wintering Lincoln's Sparrows were one at UMCF on Jan. 1 (Ott +), one at Taylors Island on Jan. 1 (Stasz), one at St. Mary's River SP on Jan. 27 (Craig), and one singing at MPEA on Jan. 29 (H. Holbrook). On Jan. 27 Craig also found about 250 White-throated Sparrows at St. Mary's River SP.

Juncos, Longspurs, Snow Buntings. Unusual Dark-eyed Juncos were an Oregon type near Quantico, WI on Dec. 16 (C. & D. Broderick) and an otherwise normal junco with white wing bars at Centennial on Jan. 9 (H. Holbrook). Peak numbers of Lapland Longspurs were eight near Ridgely on Jan. 12 (Reese, Poet), at least 20 near Lilypons on Feb. 4 (H. Holbrook), and at least 32 at PRNAS on Feb. 13 (Craig). Most of the Snow Bunting reports were from December with 16 at PRNAS on the 1st (Rambo), 35 at Hart-Miller on the 9th (Hoffman +), two near Galena, KE on the 12th (Powell, Sollers), and 40 at Centreville on the 19th (Reese).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Icterids. An adult male Rose-breasted Grosbeak was at Greenbelt through Jan. 1 (M. Balzer). Eberly saw about 150 Rusty Blackbirds at Sycamore Landing on Dec. 16 and Czaplak found a female Brewer's Blackbird there on Dec. 18. Iliff and Hafner estimated 170,000 Common Grackles at Parsonsburg on Jan. 24. High counts of Boat-tailed Grackles were 190 at Deal Island WMA on Dec. 29 (Ringler) and 70 near Crisfield on Feb. 9 (H. Armistead). Wintering Baltimore Orioles were one at North Tract PRR on Dec. 23 (Feild), a female at Churchville, HA from Jan. 18 through the end of the period (Bill McIntosh), one at Glenn Dale, PG on Jan. 23-25 (Beal), an adult male near Bel Air on Feb. 8-10 (Eileen Frey), and one banded at Nanjemoy on Feb. 28 (Callahan).

Cardueline Finches. A male and two female White-winged Crossbills appeared at Hamilton, BC on Dec. 26 through Jan. 1 (fide Davis). Common Redpolls were scarce this winter with one near Rocky Gap on Dec. 1 (Kiddy), two at St. Inigoes, SM on Jan. 13 (Bishop), two at Leonardtown from Jan. 23 through Mar. 2 (Bev & Warren Walker +), and one at Wilde Lake on Feb. 12 (Zeichner). High counts of American Goldfinches were 350 at Tilghman Island on Dec. 2 (Reese) and 102 at Webster on Feb. 21 (D. Webb). Tops for Pine Siskins was 70 at Parsonsburg from Jan. 13 through Feb. 27 (Pitney). Droege heard an Evening Grosbeak at Queen Anne Bridge, PG on Feb. 10 where he had seen one two weeks before.

Exotics. A hybrid Greylag Goose x Canada Goose was at Piney Run on Jan. 6 (Ringler) and another was at Easton on Feb. 23 (H. Holbrook, Brighton). A Black Swan was seen on Chesapeake Bay near Wittman, TA on Dec. 16 (Willey) and Jan. 20 (Bob Palmer). The Silver Gull was once again seen at Upper Marlboro on Dec. 25 (Bystrak).

SPRING MIGRATION: MARCH 1–MAY 31, 2002

Dry conditions continued into spring. With favorable weather prevailing, there were many early arrivals this year and the passerine migration ended very quickly in May.

Loons, Grebes. Interesting reports of Red-throated Loons were one at Bushwood Wharf, SM on Mar. 2 (Stasz), one at Myrtle Point Park, CH on Mar. 16 (F. Burggraf), one at Jug Bay on Mar. 20 and several at Chesapeake Beach on Mar. 24 (Bystrak), 125 at Ocean City on Apr. 1 (Reese), six at Eastern Neck on Apr. 7 (Ellison) with two remaining on Apr. 27 (Stasz), 16 at Fort Smallwood on Apr. 20 (Ricciardi +), one flying over Robbins, DO on May 4 (H. Armistead), and one at North Beach on May 15 (Stasz). Common Loons were on the move early this year with 157 seen on Tangier Sound off Deal Point, SO on Mar. 7 (H. Armistead). Single early migrant Common Loons were at Chapman's Landing, CH on Mar. 16 (Milton), Loch Raven on Mar. 17 (Terry), and Rocky Gap on Mar. 22 (Stasz, Iliff). Common Loons are frequently seen making overflights in the spring and these included 17 at Belcamp on Mar. 9, 24 there on Apr. 18, and 23 on Apr. 19 (Blom), and a high of 310 at Schooley Mill Park on Apr.

20 (Olson). Stasz saw single late Common Loons on May 27 at St. George Island and Abells Wharf, SM. Highs for Pied-billed Grebes were 25 at Piney Run on Mar. 3 (Stasz, Hafner), 55 at Loch Raven on Mar. 15 (Jenkins), and 16 at Little Seneca Lake on Mar. 31 (Stasz); one near Oakland, GA on May 22 (Iliff +) was late. Peak numbers of Horned Grebes were 20 at Greenbrier SP, 20 at Little Meadows Lake, and 23 at Rocky Gap on Mar. 25 (Stasz, Iliff), 55 at Point Lookout on Apr. 11 (Atwood +), 30 at Hains Point on Apr. 13 (Pisano +), 34 at Fort Smallwood on Apr. 14 (Ricciardi +), and 30 at Rigby's Folly on Apr. 14 (H. Armistead). The Red-necked Grebe sightings this spring were three at Bushwood Wharf, SM on Mar. 2 and one at North Beach on Mar. 19 (Stasz). Single Eared Grebes were seen at Assateague on Mar. 24 (R. Holbrook), Hains Point on Apr. 13 (Pisano +), and Poplar Island on May 22 (Iliff +).

Shearwater, Gannets, Pelicans. A Sooty Shearwater was seen at Ocean City Inlet on May 22 (Iliff +). Large numbers of Northern Gannets penetrated far into Chesapeake Bay this spring. On Mar. 21 Stasz counted 41 off North Beach and estimated 250 across the bay off Blackwalnut Point. On Mar. 23 Craig saw 100 gannets at Point Lookout and on Mar. 24 Bystrak estimated 1,000 streaming past Chesapeake Beach. Other bay-region sightings included one off Coltons Point, SM on Mar. 2 (Stasz), one off Deal Island, SO on Mar. 7 (H. Armistead), three at Cambridge on Mar. 22 (Willey), 13 off Rigby's Folly on Mar. 24 and seven there on Apr. 14 (H. Armistead), 79 at St. Michaels on Mar. 27 (Roslund) and five there on Apr. 9 (Steilkie), six off Scientists Cliffs on Mar. 29 (Hamilton), nine at the Queen Anne's Co. side of the Bay Bridge on Apr. 5 (Crabtree) and at least 30 on the Anne Arundel Co. side on Apr. 6 (Hafner), two at Morgantown and two at Cobb Island on Apr. 6 (Jett, Brewer, Gofreed), and 75 off Terrapin on Apr. 7 (Reese, B. & K. Harris). Late reports were three at North Beach on Apr. 15 (Stasz), one near the Bay Bridge in Anne Arundel Co. on Apr. 21 (Dave Kidwell), one at Smith Island on Apr. 27 (Reese, Allen), and 20 at Ocean City on May 24 (M. O'Brien +). Brown Pelicans arrived early and were frequently reported in Chesapeake Bay including five at Bivalve on Mar. 16 (Stasz), one at Cambridge on Mar. 22 (Willey), 65 at Smith Island on Apr. 27 (Reese, Allen), 325 near Barren Island on May 11 (H. Armistead, Baughman), and 96 at Bodkin Island on May 24 (Ellison +).

Cormorants, Anhingas. Double-crested Cormorants wintered in significant numbers and there were many sightings in early spring that may have been these birds as well as early migrants. In the Chesapeake Bay region there were five at Chaptico Wharf and 28 at Wicomico Shores, SM on Mar. 2 (Stasz), two at Quaker Neck Landing, KE on Mar. 2 (Ellison), 145 sitting on offshore structures on Monie Bay, SO on Mar. 7 (H. Armistead), 38 at Bivalve on Mar. 16 (Stasz), 156 at Eastern Neck on Apr. 7 (Ellison), 720 at Point Lookout on Apr. 11 (Atwood +), 250 at Smith Island on Apr. 27 (Reese, Allen), 222 at Hart-Miller on May 4 (Ricciardi +), and 10 at Beauvue and 15 at St. George Island, SM on May 27 (Stasz). On the Potomac River 100 were at Morgantown on Mar. 9 (Jett, Brewer), one at Fletchers Boathouse on Mar. 13 (Hubbell), 150 at Hains Point on Mar. 24 (Pisano), 26 at Nolands Ferry and 23 at Sandy Hook on Apr. 13 (Stasz), and three at Seneca on May 31 (Stasz). On the Susquehanna River there were 500 at Conowingo Dam on Apr. 12 (Blom, Monk). Inland cormorant reports included six at Triadelphia Reservoir on Mar. 16 (Arnold +) and 87 there on Apr. 9 (Solem, Tufts), 52 at Broadford Lake on Apr. 13 (Pope), two at Upper Marlboro on May 31 (Shaffer), and one at Pylesville on June 1 (J. & L. Fry). On the coast 22 Double-crested Cormorants were at Ocean City on Mar. 10 (Arnold, DeCarli), 1,000 in the Ocean City area on Apr. 26 (Reese, Allen), and 900 flying north past Assateague on Apr. 27 (Shaffer). The few reports of Great Cormorants were one immature at Hains Point on Mar. 23 (Czaplak), a breeding-plumaged adult at Ocean City from Mar. 28 to Apr. 1 (C. Harris +), and a second bird there on Apr. 1 (Reese). Single Anhingas were reported soaring over Upper Marlboro on Apr. 3 (Shaffer) and Assateague on May 25 (Marko).

Herons, Ibis. Single American Bitterns were at UMCF from Mar. 8 through Apr. 20 (Ott +), Plum Tree Path, HO on Mar. 30 (Ott), Meadowbrook on Apr. 13 (Ott), David Force WMA, HO on Apr. 13-27 (Cullison +), Bowie on Apr. 15 (Fallon), Patapsco Valley SP, HO on Apr. 15 (Maloney), Easton on Apr. 18 (Stasz), Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens on Apr. 20 (Milton), Hughes Hollow on May 1 (Simonson), and Deal Island WMA on May 20 (Stasz). The only reports of Least Bitterns were one at Patuxent River Park, PG on May 4 (Shaffer), two heard at Merkle on May 6 (Mozurkewich, Fallon, Shaffer), two at Deal Island WMA on May 20 (Stasz), and one at Hughes Hollow on May 31 (Stasz). Migrant Great Blue Herons on Mar. 24 were 29 at Fort Smallwood (Ricciardi +) and 20 flying over Swallow Falls (Stasz, Iliff). Early migrant Great Egrets were one at Coveys Landing, CN/TA on Mar. 9 (Stasz), one at St. Michaels on Mar. 15 (Steilkie), four at Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens on Mar. 15 (Pisano), two flying over Dans Mountain on Mar. 24 (Stasz), two flying over Swallow Falls on Mar. 24 (Stasz, Iliff), two at Fort Smallwood on Mar. 27 (Ricciardi +), and one at Harford Glen from Mar. 30 through Apr. 7 (Cheicante). Other inland reports were one at Lilypons on Mar. 31, three there on May 26 (Stasz), one at Piney Reservoir on Apr. 2 (Brewer), and two at Little Seneca Lake on Apr. 7 (Wilson). Other Great Egrets of note were seven at Mariner Point Park on May 7 (Blom, Monk), 133 at Blackwater on May 11 (Willey), and one at North Point SP on May 25 (Stasz, Boyd, Iliff). The most interesting reports of Snowy Egrets were one at Jesterville, WI on Mar. 16 (Stasz), three at North Beach on Mar. 21 (Stasz), one at Fletchers Boathouse on Apr. 11 (Fischer), one at Dameron on Apr. 12 (Craig), and 45 at Blackwater on May 11 (Willey). Two Little Blue Herons were seen at Fort Smallwood on Apr. 5 (Ricciardi +), one at Leeds Creek on Apr. 12 (Roslund), one at Elms Beach on Apr. 14 (Craig), one at North Beach on Apr. 15 (Stasz), an immature at Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens on Apr. 16 (Paul), one flying over Upper Marlboro on May 6 (Mozurkewich, Fallon, Shaffer), and an adult at Broadford Lake, where very rare, on May 19 (Iliff). Tricolored Herons numbered nine at Deal Island WMA on Mar. 10 (Arnold, DeCarli), 30 at Smith Island on Apr. 27 (Reese, Allen), and one at Hains Point on May 18 (Janni, Hilton, Pisano). Reports of Cattle Egrets included at least two on Cox Neck, QA on Apr. 2 (Crabtree), two at Scotland on Apr. 18 (Craig), six at Claiborne on Apr. 18 (Reese), one at Fulton on May 23-24 (H. Holbrook), two at North Point SP on May 25 (Stasz, Boyd, Iliff), and 20 near Crofton, AA on May 27 (Al Haury). Early Green Herons were single birds at Port Tobacco on Apr. 11 (Stasz), Ashton on Apr. 14 (Sussman), Upper Marlboro on Apr. 15 (Shaffer), and Fletchers Boathouse on Apr. 17 (Hubbell). Four Black-crowned Night-Herons were at Fairmount WMA on Mar. 7 (H. Armistead). Early Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were one at Hains Point on Mar. 24 (Pisano), three at Sligo Creek, MO on Mar. 25, seven there on Apr. 2 (Stock), one at Wyman Park, BC on Mar. 25 (Shireen Gonzaga) and seven there on Apr. 5 (E. & N. Kirschbaum), and two at Hughes Hollow from Apr. 2 through May 27 (Dacol +); others of note were two on lower Rock Creek in DC on Apr. 14 (Ryan), one on Roosevelt Island on Apr. 20 (Paul Walsh), 30 at Smith Island on Apr. 27 (Reese, Allen), and one at Glen Artney, HO on May 22 (Arnold). Notable Glossy Ibis were one at Blackwater on Mar. 24 (H. Armistead, Barbara Albert), 17 at Newcomb, TA on Mar. 30 (Steilkie), one at Mount Calvert on Mar. 30 (Shaffer +), three at Sparrows Point, BA on Apr. 16 (Dodson), two at Terrapin on May 2 (Mark Schilling), and one at Fort McHenry on May 22 (Peters +).

Vultures. Stasz and Hafner noted a pair of Black Vultures in courtship flight on Mar. 3 at Lake Linganore, FR. Rare in Western Maryland, single Black Vultures were seen along the New Germany Road, GA on Mar. 23 and at Pinto, AL on Mar. 25 by Iliff and Stasz, and near the Paw Paw Tunnel, AL on May 11 (Stasz, Boyd). Roslund saw a Black Vulture nest with two young on Apr. 23 in a Talbot Co. duck blind. An apparent albino Turkey Vulture was seen

east of Chestertown, KE on Mar. 24 (William Bruther). Blom counted 26 migrant Turkey Vultures on Apr. 2 at Belcamp.

Geese, Swans. A blue morph Snow Goose at Little Meadows Lake from Mar. 23 through Apr. 3 (Churchill +) was unusual there. Four Snow Geese at Ocean Pines on May 18 (Stasz, Hafner), three at Hurlock on May 20 (Stasz), and one at Crofton, AA on May 27 (Shaffer) may have tried summering locally. The only late Ross's Goose was near Centreville on May 2-7 (Atwood +). About 2,000 Canada Geese remained at Piney Run on Mar. 3 (Stasz, Hafner) and a partial albino with normal head and neck but the remainder of the bird white was at Deal Island WMA on Mar. 7 (H. Armistead). Tim Ray found the earliest brood of Canada Geese on Apr. 2, four downy young at Goddard Space Flight Center, PG. A small race Canada Goose was near Centreville on Mar. 2-7 (Atwood +) and two were at Blackwater on Mar. 2 (H. Armistead). Now rare on Chesapeake Bay in spring, two Brant were at Hooper Island on May 4 (H. Armistead). On Mar. 13-14 Shaffer observed the pair of Mute Swans at Upper Marlboro nest-building. The last concentrations of Tundra Swans were 1,640 at Deal Island WMA on Mar. 7 (H. Armistead) and 630 at Eastern Neck on Mar. 10 (Ellison); the largest flight observed was 1,200 in five flocks over Belcamp on Mar. 9 (Blom). A Tundra Swan on the Potomac River, DC on May 26-27 (Pisano +) was a straggler.

Puddle Ducks. High numbers of Wood Ducks were 42 at Wootons Landing on Mar. 5 (Stasz) and 60 at Upper Marlboro on Mar. 24 (Jett, Brewer). The first brood of Wood Ducks was of five downy young at Little Falls Dam, MO on Mar. 26 (Czaplak). The 160 Gadwalls at Deal Island WMA on Mar. 7 (H. Armistead) were the high for the season, and late birds were four at Hart-Miller on May 25 (Scarpulla +) and one at Havre de Grace on May 29 (D. Webb). A female Eurasian Wigeon was picked out of 45 American Wigeons on a farm pond near Lisbon, HO on Mar. 3 (Stasz, Hafner), and a drake Eurasian Wigeon returned to Upper Marlboro on Mar. 23-30 (Bystrak +). Harry Armistead found the largest flock of American Wigeons on Mar. 7 with 1,200 at Deal Island WMA. Large numbers of American Black Ducks included 150 at Pomonkey Creek on Mar. 7 (Jett), 360 at Deal Island WMA and 80 at Fairmount WMA on Mar. 7 (H. Armistead), and 500 at Assateague on Mar. 9 (Arnold, DeCarli); at Elliott Island on May 4 a female was shepherding eight downy young (H. Armistead). Early nestings of Mallards produced nine downy young at Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens on Apr. 6 (Hubbell), nine downy young at Federalsburg on Apr. 6 (Stasz, Hafner), and eight downy young at North Beach on Apr. 10 (Stasz). A hybrid American Black Duck X Mallard was at UMCF on Mar. 3 (Stasz, Hafner). Early Blue-winged Teal on Mar. 7 were two at Pomonkey Creek (Jett) and two at Deal Island WMA plus three at Fairmount WMA (H. Armistead); late migrants were one at Goddard Space Flight Center, PG on May 20 (Pierce), a male at Terrapin on May 24 (Stasz), and one at Poplar Island on May 31 (Reese). Flocks of Northern Shovelers included 40 at Chesapeake Farms on Mar. 3 (Ellison), 150 at Hurlock on Mar. 9 (Arnold, DeCarli), and 150 at Deal Island WMA on Mar. 10 (Arnold, DeCarli) down to nine there on Apr. 20 (Stasz); a late one was at Hart-Miller on May 4 (Ricciardi +). Migrant Northern Pintails included 55 at Cliffs City Landing and 60 at Chesapeake Farms on Mar. 3 (Ellison), 160 at Deal Island WMA on Mar. 7 (H. Armistead), and 275 at Blackwater on Mar. 14 (H. Armistead) but a drake there on May 20 (Stasz) was very late. Green-winged Teal numbered 68 on Broad Neck, KE on Mar. 3 (Ellison), 560 at Deal Island WMA and 225 at Fairmount WMA on Mar. 7 (H. Armistead), 75 at Tanyard on Mar. 9 (Stasz), 53 at Jesterville, WI and 50 at Bridge Creek on Mar. 16 (Stasz), and 225 at Blackwater on Apr. 7 (H. Armistead); a pair lingered at North Beach on May 10-20 (Stasz).

Diving Ducks. About 3,000 Canvasbacks were massed in Bolingbroke Creek, TA on Mar. 17 (Reese, Shirley Bailey); late was a male at Hart-Miller on May 4-18 (Scarpulla +). High counts of Ring-necked Ducks were 85 at Queenstown on Mar. 7 (Reese), 100 on the Potomac River above Great Falls on Mar. 23 (Fischer), and 505 at Broadford Lake plus 90 at McHenry, GA on Mar. 23 (Stasz, Iliff). A pair of Ring-necks lingered at Piney Run on May 11-21 (Ringler) and one was on Broadford Lake on May 22 (Farnsworth +). Concentrations of Greater Scaup were 2,000 at Kent Narrows on Mar. 9 (Arnold, DeCarli) and 1,200 off Chapmans Landing, CH on Mar. 16 (Milton). Other notable reports of Greaters were one on the Potomac River off Gravelly Point in DC on Mar. 23 (Pisano), 12 at Little Meadows Lake and five at Rocky Gap on Mar. 25 (Stasz, Iliff), three at Hains Point on Apr. 13 (Pisano), and two at Hart-Miller on May 4 (Ricciardi +). Lesser Scaup included 1,370 at Cliffs City Landing on Mar. 3 (Ellison), 200 at Broadford Lake on Mar. 22 (Pope), 41 at Rocky Gap on Mar. 25 (Stasz, Iliff), and 800 on the Gunpowder River, BA on Mar. 30 (Stasz); late were two at Hart-Miller on May 18 (Scarpulla, D. Burggraf). Two Harlequin Ducks, an adult male and an immature male, were at Point Lookout on Apr. 22 (Sigrid Stiles, Craig). Concentrations of Surf Scoters were 2,345 on Tangier Sound on Mar. 7 (H. Armistead), 4,000 off Rigby's Folly on Mar. 14 and 2,035 there on Apr. 14 (H. Armistead), and 2,000 at Chesapeake Beach on Mar. 24 (Bystrak); the only one inland was at Violettes Lock on Apr. 3 (Czaplak). Stasz noted single White-winged Scoters at Cambridge on Mar. 9 and at North Beach on Apr. 23. The only reports of Black Scoters were six at Ocean City on Apr. 1 (Reese) and two at North Beach on Apr. 15 (Stasz). The 1,100 Long-tailed Ducks on Tangier Sound on Mar. 7 and 3,000 off Rigby's Folly on Mar. 14 (H. Armistead) were the only large flocks reported. Inland sightings of Long-tails were numerous with one at Greenbrier SP on Mar. 9 (Weesner), a female at Georgetown Reservoir on Mar. 16 (C. Harris, Hubbell), 13 at Triadelphia on Mar. 25 (Jenkins), two at Little Meadows Lake and two at Piney Reservoir on Mar. 25 (Stasz, Iliff), one at Jug Bay on Mar. 27 (Bystrak), two at Lapidum on Mar. 30 (Stasz +), two at Little Seneca Lake on Mar. 31 (Stasz), and one at Hunting Creek Lake, FR on Mar. 31 (Stasz). Iliff and party found 75 Surf Scoters, eight White-winged Scoters, and two Long-tailed Ducks at Poplar Island on May 22. High counts of Buffleheads were 115 at Tangier Sound on Mar. 7 (H. Armistead), 150 at Cobb Island on Mar. 9 (Jett, Brewer), 200 at Assateague on Mar. 9 (Arnold, DeCarli), 1,750 off Rigby's Folly on Mar. 14 (H. Armistead), 96 at Eastern Neck on Apr. 7 (Ellison), 350 at North Beach on Apr. 10 (Stasz), 260 at Point Lookout on Apr. 11 (Atwood +), and 75 at Hains Point on Apr. 13 (Pisano); late birds were an immature male at Hog Island, QA on May 24 (Ellison +) and a female at North Beach on May 25 (Stasz). Highs for Common Goldeneye were a modest 75 at Tangier Sound on Mar. 7 (H. Armistead) and 100 at Kent Narrows on Mar. 9 (Arnold, DeCarli). About 100 Hooded Mergansers were at Piney Run on Mar. 3 (Stasz, Hafner) and 68 at Little Meadows Lake on Mar. 22 (Stasz, Iliff). Frank McGillvary found a Hooded Merganser nest with eggs and young at Beltsville on Apr.8 and Solem saw a female Hooded Merganser with five downy young at Deep Run, HO on May 1; single females were near Oakland, GA on May 20 (Iliff), at Lake Elkhorn on May 20 (Neri), and at Hughes Hollow on May 21 (Woodward), and two females were at Broadford Lake on May 22 (Iliff +). Schwarz tallied 212 Common Mergansers at Brighton Dam on Mar. 6; elsewhere 36 were at Blackwater on Mar. 14 (H. Armistead), 40 at Loch Raven on Mar. 15 (Jenkins), and two flying over Dameron on Apr. 18 (Craig, Bishop). Highs for Red-breasted Mergansers were 90 at Chaptico Wharf, SM on Mar. 2 (Stasz), 80 at Cliffs City Landing on Mar. 2 (Ellison), 75 at Rigby's Folly on Mar. 14 (H. Armistead), 42 at Broadford Lake on Mar. 16 (Pope), and 17 at Hains Point on Mar. 24 (Pisano); late were one at Seneca on May 15 (Bowen) and a female at Fort McHenry on May 26 (Stasz). Stasz found 800 Ruddy Ducks at Chaptico Wharf and 2,000 at Wicomico Shores, SM on Mar. 2 and 400 were at Cliffs City Landing the same day (Ellison), 400 were at Hurlock on Mar. 9 (Arnold, DeCarli), 300 were

at Morgantown on Apr. 6 (Jett, Brewer, Gofreed), 300 were at Chapel Point, CH on Apr. 11 (Stasz), and 130 were at Eastern Neck on Apr. 21 (Ellison, N. Martin). Lingering Ruddy Ducks that may have continued into the summer were three at Berlin on May 18 (Stasz, Hafner), two at Chesapeake Farms on May 19 (Ellison), three at Hurlock on May 20 (Stasz), three at Little Meadows Lake on May 22 (Iliff +), one at Great Oak Pond on May 27 (Ellison), and two at Poplar Island on May 31 (Reese).

Diurnal Raptors. Early Ospreys included two at Leonardtown on Mar. 1 (Craig), two at Coltons Point, SM on Mar. 2 (Stasz), one at Neavitt, TA on Mar. 6 (Reese), one at Kent Island on Mar. 8 (Crabtree), and inland one at Centennial on Mar. 23 (Wright), one at Loch Raven on Mar. 24 (Lev, Terry), and one at Piney Reservoir on Apr. 2 (Brewer +); a late migrant was at Lake Kittamaqundi on May 25 (Neri). Single adult Mississippi Kites were identified at APL on Apr. 11 (Harvey) and at Scotland on Apr. 22 (Cribb). An adult Bald Eagle was at Piney Reservoir on Mar. 22 (Stasz, Iliff) and six immatures were seen at Jug Bay on Mar. 24 (Bystrak). On Mar. 7 there were 11 Northern Harriers seen at Deal Island WMA and another five were at Fairmount WMA (H. Armistead). Blom counted 23 Sharp-shinned Hawks migrating over Belcamp on Apr. 19. The only migrant Northern Goshawk was at Bel Air, HA on Mar. 3 (Bill Pfingsten); a pair was on territory in Garrett Co. on May 10-11 (Pope). Dyke saw two early Broad-winged Hawks at Nassawango Creek, WO on Apr. 2 and Wilkerson saw 40 migrants at APL on Apr. 17. The last Rough-legged Hawks of the season were a dark morph at Shorters Wharf, DO on Mar. 14 (H. Armistead) and one at Elliott Island on Mar. 16 (Czaplak, Todd). Reports of Golden Eagles were one at Elliott Island on Mar. 16 (Czaplak, Todd), one migrating along Backbone Mountain at Aaron Run on Mar. 24 (Iliff, Stasz), and an immature over Belcamp on Apr. 2 (Blom). Reports of Merlins were numerous but all single birds at Broad Neck Landing, KE on Mar. 3 (Ellison), at Assateague on Mar. 9 (Arnold, DeCarli), at Easton on Mar. 9 (Stasz), at Fort McHenry on Mar. 11 (Peters, Costley), at Greenbury Point on Mar. 21 (Bystrak), near Upper Marlboro on Mar. 26 (Shaffer), at Port Republic, CT on Apr. 2 (Hamilton), at Rhodesdale, DO on Apr. 6 (Stasz, Hafner), at Dameron on Apr. 12 (Craig), at Greenbelt on Apr. 14 (Jack Saba +), at PRNAS on Apr. 16 (Rambo), at Catonsville, BA on Apr. 17 (Arnold), at Belcamp on Apr. 19 and 20 (Blom), at Boyds, MO on Apr. 25 (Simonson), near Pickering Creek on Apr. 26 (Stasz), at Peacock Corner, KE on Apr. 27 (Stasz), and near Blackwater on May 4 (H. Armistead). Single Peregrine Falcons were at E. A. Vaughn WMA on Mar. 2 (H. Holbrook), at Columbia on Apr. 4 (E. Metter), and north of Eastern Neck NWR on Apr. 7 (Ellison).

Upland Game Birds, Rallids, Cranes. In Calvert Co. single Ring-necked Pheasants were seen at the American Chestnut Land Trust on Mar. 29 (Leslie Starr, Joe Turner) and at Scientists Cliffs on Mar. 30 (Dan & Leigh Hamilton). On Apr. 1 Reese saw five Wild Turkeys at Bozman. A Northern Bobwhite was heard at Kenilworth Park on May 24-25 (Pisano +) and one was at Monrovia, FR on May 25 (Joe McDaniel). Stasz heard two Black Rails at Elliott Island on Apr. 19 and four were there on May 21 (M. O'Brien +); others were one at Truitts Landing on Apr. 20 (Stasz) and one heard at Aberdeen Proving Ground on May 11 (D. Webb, Dave Ziolkowski). On Mar. 7 Harry Armistead found three Clapper Rails at Deal Island WMA and one at Fairmount WMA; on Apr. 19 in Wicomico Co. Stasz found two at Ellis Bay WMA and one at Jesterville. Reports of King Rails were eight at Elliott and one at Bridge Creek on Apr. 19 (Stasz), two at Easton and three at Tanyard on Apr. 21 (Stasz), one at Point Lookout on Apr. 25 (Rambo), one at Wootons Landing on Apr. 27 (Fallon +), and one at Eastern Neck on Apr. 27 (Stasz). Notable reports of Virginia Rails were one at Wootons Landing on Mar. 5 (Stasz), one at Fort McHenry on Mar. 6 (Peters +), three at Eastern Neck on Mar. 15 (Ellison), one at Pinto Marsh, AL on Apr. 14 (Churchill), 14 at Elliott and one at Bridge

Migrant Vultures & Diurnal Raptors, Spring 2002
Fort Smallwood Park, Anne Arundel County

SPECIES	FIRST	LAST	TOTAL	BIG DAYS
Black Vulture	2/16	5/17	149	18 on 4/15
Turkey Vulture	2/12	6/4	4,288	436 on 3/16, 267 on 3/24
Mississippi Kite	4/19	5/16	3	1 on 5/15 also
Bald Eagle	2/26	5/23	61	4 on 4/8
Northern Harrier	3/15	5/10	103	10 on 4/17, 9 on 4/14
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3/1	5/19	2,908	335 on 4/23, 298 on 4/19
Cooper's Hawk	2/16	5/19	480	67 on 4/23, 43 on 4/19
Northern Goshawk	4/19		1	
Red-shouldered Hawk	2/21	5/20	134	46 on 3/15, 10 on 4/13
Broad-winged Hawk	4/13	5/24	950	334 on 4/23, 163 on 5/16
Red-tailed Hawk	2/12	5/23	310	22 on 3/29, 21 on 4/13
American Kestrel	3/10	5/11	334	66 on 4/13, 57 on 3/25
Merlin	3/16	5/11	55	11 on 4/23, 6 on 4/28
Peregrine Falcon	5/16		1	
Unidentified Raptors			26	
TOTAL	2/12	6/5	10,268	

Total 458.7 hours on 91 days. Compiled by Sue Ricciardi. Other observers: Hal Wierenga, Lynn Davidson, Jane & Ralph Geuder, Bob Rineer, Dave Mozurkewich, Dan Eberly, Cal and Bud Orvis, Deb Gingrich, Dave Grove, Greg Smith, John Hoffman, Linda Baker, Steve Sanford, Tom Harten, Wade Stephen, Harry Armistead, Sally Rowe, Mike Keegan.

Creek on Apr. 19 (Stasz), six at Marsh Creek, CN on Apr. 20 (Stasz), four at Easton on Apr. 21 (Stasz), and three at Finzel and two at Cherry Creek Glades, GA in late May (Iliff). Reports of Soras were one at Fort McHenry on Mar. 11 (Peters, Costley), one at Allview, HO on Apr. 5 (Ralph Stokes), one or two at UMCF on Apr. 14 through June 1 (Ott +), one at Truitts Landing on Apr. 20 (Stasz), one at Easton on Apr. 21 (Stasz), one at Eastern Neck on Apr. 27 (Stasz), four at Mariner Point Park on May 12 (Blom, Monk), and one at Pinto Marsh, AL on May 22 (Iliff +). Common Moorhens of note were six at Elliott on Apr. 19 (Stasz), one at Van Bibber, HA on May 4-7 (Monk +), one at Bethel WMA on May 5 (Stasz, Boyd), one at Harford Glen on May 13 (Seitz, P. Powers), six at Deal Island WMA on May 20 (Stasz), and one at Hughes Hollow on May 25 (C. Harris). High counts of American Coots were 500 at Havre de Grace on Mar. 8 (Blom, Monk, Hagenston), 1,000 at Loch Raven on Mar. 15 (Jenkins), and 95 at Broadford Lake and 270 at McHenry on Mar. 23 (Stasz, Iliff). Two Sandhill Cranes were seen flying south past Fort Smallwood on May 4 (Bob Rineer, Greg Smith).

Plovers. Black-bellied Plovers were widely reported this spring: 22 at Assateague on Mar. 9 (Arnold, DeCarli), 50 at Deal Island WMA on Apr. 20 and one there on May 20 (Stasz), one at Chesapeake Farms on Apr. 25 (Ellison), six at Smith Island on Apr. 27 (Reese, Allen), 26 at Hart-Miller on May 4 (Ricciardi +), 19 at Havre de Grace on May 4 (Stasz, Boyd), three at St. Michaels on May 4 (Reese), three at Merkle on May 6 (Mozurkewich, Fallon, Shaffer), two near Hellen Creek, CT on May 7 (Ripley), three at North Beach on May 9

(Stasz), two near Jennings Chapel, HO on May 16 (Sheppard), 287 at Scarboro, WO on May 18 (Stasz, Hafner), 96 near Fairlee on May 18 and 50 at Edesville, KE on May 19 (Ellison), 130 near Vienna, DO on May 22 (M. O'Brien +), 50 at Poplar I on May 24 (Ellison +), three at Allens Fresh on May 27 (Jett, Brewer), and 65 at Handy Point, KE on May 27 (Ellison). Rarely reported in spring an American Golden-Plover in breeding plumage was near Vienna, DO on May 22 (M. O'Brien +) and a Piping Plover was at Hart-Miller on May 25 (Scarpulla +). Early Semipalmated Plovers were one at Tanyard on Apr. 21 (Stasz) and eight at Chesapeake Farms on Apr. 25 (Ellison) followed by six at Mariner Point Park on May 12 (Blom, Monk), 40 at Eastern Neck on May 12 (Ellison), 11 at Liberty Lake, CL on May 18 (Ringler), 12 at Cranesville Swamp, GA on May 19 (Iliff), 14 near Centreville and 89 at Tanyard on May 20 (Stasz), 99 at Hart-Miller on May 25 (Scarpulla +), 34 at Mason Dixon Farm on May 25 (Weesner), six at Allens Fresh on May 27 (Jett, Brewer), one at Havre de Grace on May 29 (D. Webb), and 32 at Poplar Island on May 31 (Reese). Poet found a Killdeer nest with four eggs in Queen Anne's Co. on Mar. 21.

Oystercatchers, Stilts, Avocets. American Oystercatchers away from the coast were two at Wenona, SO on Mar. 7 (H. Armistead), 18 at Smith Island on Apr. 27 (Reese, Allen), and two at Poplar Island on May 24-31 (Ellison +). Stasz saw six Black-necked Stilts at Elliott on Apr. 19, one was at Blackwater on Apr. 21 (Willey), one was at Deal Island WMA on May 20 (Stasz), and on May 25 there were 11 at E. A. Vaughn WMA and one at Truitts Landing (P. O'Brien). The only American Avocets for the season were four at Lapidum on Mar. 30 (Hafner, Stasz +) and one at Hart-Miller on May 25 (Scarpulla +).

Tringine Sandpipers. Early Greater Yellowlegs appeared in many places including one at Eastern Neck on Mar. 3 (Ellison), seven at Deal Island WMA and 11 at Fairmount WMA on Mar. 7 (H. Armistead), one at UMCF on Mar. 8 (Ott), seven at West Ocean City and 37 at Deal Island WMA on Mar. 10 (Arnold, DeCarli), one at North Beach on Mar. 13 (Stasz), one at Mariner Point Park on Mar. 14 (P. Powers), nine at Blackwater on Mar. 14 (H. Armistead), six at Jug Bay on Mar. 15 (Bystrak), and one near Centreville on Mar. 16 (Stasz). Peak numbers of Greaters were 32 at Elms Beach on Apr. 14 (Craig) and 25 at Jug Bay on May 4 (Shaffer); late birds were seven at Salisbury on May 19 (Stasz), one at Chesapeake Farms on May 24 (Stasz), and one at Truitts Landing on May 25 (P. O'Brien). Early Lesser Yellowlegs were one at Deal Island WMA on Mar. 10 (Arnold, DeCarli), one at Blackwater on Mar. 14 (H. Armistead), three at Mariner Point Park on Mar. 16 (P. Powers), three at Jug Bay on Mar. 17 (Bystrak), and one at Georgetown Reservoir on Mar. 28 (Fischer); peak numbers were 32 at Tanyard on Apr. 6 (Stasz, Hafner), 17 at Salisbury on Apr. 19 (Stasz), 27 at North Beach on Apr. 25 (Stasz), and 25 at Swan Harbor Farm on May 5 (Stasz, Boyd), and late birds were two at Salisbury on May 23 (Reese), one at Hart-Miller on May 25 (Scarpulla +), and one at Waterford Farm, HO on June 1 (Wallace). Early Solitary Sandpipers were one at Upper Marlboro on Mar. 29 and two at Allens Fresh on Apr. 11 (Stasz); highs were 24 at Halethorpe Ponds, AA on Apr. 30 (Arnold), 22 at Alpha Ridge Landfill on May 3 (Cullison), and 29 at Loch Raven on May 4 (Jenkins), and the latest was one at Soldiers Delight on May 26 (Stasz). Notable reports of Willets were 18 at Elliott and 154 at Assateague on Apr. 19 (Stasz), one heard at North Beach on Apr. 22 (Stasz), one of the eastern subspecies at Chesapeake Farms on Apr. 25 (Ellison), and one at Hog Island, QA on May 24 (Ellison +). Early Spotted Sandpipers were one at Fletchers Boathouse on Apr. 3 (Hubbell) and one at Sandy Hook on Apr. 13 (Stasz). Nests of Spotted Sandpipers were one with four eggs at Hart-Miller on May 18 (Scarpulla, D. Burggraf), another with four eggs there on May 25 (Scarpulla +), and one with three eggs at Alpha Ridge Landfill on May 24 (Cullison). Three Spotted Sandpipers at Poplar Island on May 31 (Reese) also may have remained to nest.

Upland Sandpipers, Whimbrels, Godwits, Turnstones. Czaplak saw three Upland Sandpipers at Trout Run on May 18 and Stasz found one near Millington on May 24. Reports of Whimbrels were nine at Assateague on Apr. 19 (Stasz) with 77 there on May 18 (Stasz, Hafner), one at Trout Run on May 18 (Czaplak), two at Poplar Island on May 24 (Ellison +), one at North Branch on May 25 (Kiddy, Churchill), and 121 in two flocks flying over Rigby's Folly on May 26 (H. Armistead). The only Marbled Godwits of the season were one at Truitts Landing on Apr. 27 (Leo Weigant) and one at Hart-Miller on May 18 (Scarpulla, D. Burggraf). Interesting reports of Ruddy Turnstones were nine at Tilghman Island on May 11 (Reese), 55 at Assateague on May 18 (Stasz, Hafner), two at Edesville, KE on May 19 (Ellison), two at North Beach on May 20 with one remaining the next day (Stasz), 10 at Poplar Island on May 24 (Ellison +), six at Hart-Miller on May 25 (Scarpulla +), and one at Handy Point, KE on May 27 (Ellison).

Calidridine Sandpipers. The only reports of Red Knots were three at Assateague on May 18 (Stasz, Hafner) and three at Hart-Miller on May 25 (Scarpulla +). Notable Sanderlings were 150 at Assateague on Apr. 19 (Stasz), two at Smith Island on Apr. 27 (Reese, Allen), and five at Poplar Island on May 31 (Reese). Reports of Semipalmated Sandpipers included six at Mariner Point Park on May 7-12 (Blom, Monk), 40 at North Beach on May 10-15 (Stasz), 25 at Eastern Neck on May 12 (Ellison), 32 at Tanyard on May 20 (Stasz), hundreds at Poplar Island on May 24 (Ellison +), 946 at Hart-Miller on May 25 (Scarpulla +), four at Allens Fresh on May 27 (Jett, Brewer), and four at UMCF on June 1 (Ott, Holdridge). The first Least Sandpiper of the season was at Federalsburg on Apr. 6 (Stasz, Hafner) followed by 24 at Tanyard on Apr. 21 (Stasz), 23 at Havre de Grace and 24 at Swan Harbor Farm on May 4 (Stasz, Boyd), 48 at Loch Raven on May 4 (Jenkins), 40 at North Beach on May 10 (Stasz), 50 at Liberty Lake, CL on May 18 (Ringler), 50 at Chesapeake Farms on May 22 (Ellison), one at Terrapin on May 24 (Stasz), 22 at Hart-Miller on May 25 (Scarpulla +), one at Mason Dixon Farm on May 26 (Stasz), and five at Poplar Island on May 31 (Reese). A White-rumped Sandpiper was at Mariner Point Park on May 7 (Blom, Monk), two were at Elms Beach on May 9 (Rambo), one was at E. A. Vaughn WMA on May 18 (Stasz, Hafner), two were at Chesapeake Farms on May 21 with one remaining through the 24th (Ellison +), and seven were at Hart-Miller on May 25 (Scarpulla +). Six Pectoral Sandpipers at Blackwater on Mar. 24 (H. Armistead, Albert) were the first of the season, and the latest were two at Swan Harbor Farm on May 5 (Stasz, Boyd) and one at Chesapeake Farms on May 24 (Stasz). The last Purple Sandpiper at Ocean City this spring was in breeding plumage on May 26 (Wilkinson). An early Dunlin was at Tanyard on Apr. 6 (Stasz, Hafner) and a peak of 24 was there on May 20 (Stasz). Locally high numbers of Dunlins were 400 at Deal Island WMA on Apr. 20 (Stasz), six at Mariner Point Park on May 12 (Blom, Monk), 3,300 at Hart-Miller on May 18 (Scarpulla, D. Burggraf), 30 at Liberty Lake, CL on May 18 (Ringler), 400 at Assateague on May 18 (Stasz, Hafner), and hundreds at Poplar Island on May 24 (Ellison +). Late Dunlins were three at Mariner Point Park on May 19 (P. Powers), three at UMCF on May 19 (Ott, Holdridge), and one at Terrapin and three at Horsehead on May 24 (Stasz). The only Stilt Sandpipers of the season were two at Hooper Island on May 4 (H. Armistead).

Dowitchers, Snipe, Woodcock, Phalaropes. Significant reports of Short-billed Dowitchers were eight of subspecies griseus at North Beach on Apr. 25 (Stasz), three at Terrapin on May 2 (Mark Schilling), 18 at Elliott on May 4 (H. Armistead), 109 at Hart-Miller on May 18 (Scarpulla, D. Burggraf), four at Rocky Gap on May 18 (Churchill), 17 near Fairlee on May 18 (Ellison), 14 at Salisbury on May 19 (Stasz), and 17 at Poplar Island on May 31 (Reese). Stasz identified the only Long-billed Dowitcher of the season on Apr. 20 at Deal Island WMA. Common Snipe were abundant throughout the state including 23 at Upper Marlboro

on Mar. 13 (Shaffer), 310 at Jug Bay on Mar. 13 (Bystrak), 26 at Blackwater on Mar. 14 (H. Armistead), 92 at Broad Creek on Mar. 17 (Mozurkewich), 21 at Bethel WMA on Mar. 23 (Fisher, Watson-Whitmyre), 22 near Easton on Mar. 24 (Reese, Allen), 10 at Pleasant Valley and 17 near Trout Run on Mar. 28 (Pope), 31 at Tanyard on Apr. 6 (Hafner, Stasz), 23 at Loch Raven on Apr. 6 (Lev), and 35 at Swan Harbor Farm in early April (Hafner). Iliff and Stasz found two snipe winnowing on Mar. 24 at Cherry Creek Glades, GA where they may be breeding. Stasz counted nine American Woodcocks displaying at Wootons Landing on Mar. 5. Reports of Wilson's Phalaropes were one at North Branch on May 19 (Kiddy, Simons, Churchill) and three there on the 25th (Kiddy, Churchill), a male at Chesapeake Farms on May 21 (Perry), and a female at Hart-Miller on May 25 (Scarpulla +). The only Red-necked Phalaropes were a male at Chesapeake Farms on May 22 (Ellison) and a female at Hart-Miller on May 25 (Scarpulla +).

Dark-headed Gulls. Early Laughing Gulls were one in breeding plumage at Deal Island WMA on Mar. 7 (H. Armistead), three at Beulah on Mar. 9 (Arnold, DeCarli), one at Cambridge and 36 at Tanyard on Mar. 9 (Stasz), 18 at Salisbury on Mar. 10 (Arnold, DeCarli), three at Dameron on Mar. 12 (Rambo), one in Queen Anne's Co. on Mar. 18 (Poet), and one at Upper Marlboro on Mar. 21 (Shaffer). As numbers rapidly increased there were 800 Laughers near Brookview and 250 at Tanyard on Apr. 6 (Stasz, Hafner) and 594 at Upper Marlboro on May 10 (Shaffer); on the Potomac River eight flew over Hains Point on Apr. 14 (Hubbell) and one was at Violettes Lock on May 9 (Czaplak). Sightings of Little Gulls were an adult at Lapidum on Mar. 23 (Blom, Monk), an adult at Back River on Mar. 30 (Stasz), and an immature at Hart-Miller on May 25 (Scarpulla +). Concentrations of Bonaparte's Gulls were 300 at Havre de Grace on Mar. 8 (Blom, Monk, Hagenston), 200 at Ocean City on Mar. 10 (Arnold, DeCarli), 500 at Back River on Mar. 30 (Stasz), and 150 at Wilde Lake on Apr. 2 (Zeichner). Other Bonaparte's Gulls of note were three at Upper Marlboro on Mar. 21 and at least 40 there on Apr. 3 (Shaffer), one at Kingman Lake on Mar. 23 (Hubbell), three at Little Meadows Lake on Mar. 25 (Stasz, Iliff), 60 at Hog Island Wharf, CN and Tanyard on Apr. 6 (Stasz, Hafner), 40 at Point Lookout on Apr. 11 (Atwood +), 30 at Carderock on Apr. 14 (Fischer), two immatures at Deep Creek Lake on May 19 (Iliff), one at Ocean City on May 22 (Iliff +), and an immature at Hart-Miller on May 25 (Scarpulla +).

White-headed Gulls. Ellison found 800 Ring-billed Gulls at Sassafras River NRMA, KE on Mar. 16 and an albino was at Upper Marlboro on Mar. 27 (Shaffer). Reports of California Gulls were an adult at Back River on Mar. 29 (Lev) and a third-year bird at Hart-Miller on May 4 (Ricciardi +). Stasz estimated 200 Herring Gulls at Tanyard on Mar. 9 and one was far west at McHenry on Mar. 24 (Iliff); nesting birds were seen at Poplar Island and Bodkin Island on May 24 (Ellison +). The only Thayer's Gull of the season was a third-summer bird at Hart-Miller on May 18 and the only Iceland Gulls were two first-summer birds there the same day (Scarpulla, D. Burggraf). Lesser Black-backed Gulls were well-represented with two, an adult and a first-winter bird, at Beulah on Mar. 1 (H. Holbrook), an adult at Havre de Grace on Mar. 8 (Blom, Hagenston, Monk), an adult at Salisbury on Mar. 10 (Arnold, DeCarli), a breeding plumage adult at Eastern Neck on Mar. 10 (Ellison), an adult at Anacostia Park on Mar. 11 (Bowen), two adults at Bladensburg on Mar. 18 (Shaffer), an adult at Cumberland on Mar. 18 (Kiddy +) which was a first for Allegany Co., a near-adult at Broad Creek on Mar. 17 (Mozurkewich), a first-winter/summer bird at Upper Marlboro from Mar. 20 through Apr. 15 (Shaffer), one near Easton on the Choptank River on Mar. 24 (Reese, Allen), one at Sandy Point on Mar. 24 (Shaffer), a first-summer bird at North Beach on Mar. 27 (Stasz), five adults at the Deer Run Golf Course near Berlin on Mar. 28 (C. Harris), one at Ocean City on Apr. 1 (Reese), an adult near Brookview and a first-winter bird opposite Kingston Landing, CN

on Apr. 6 (Stasz, Hafner), two, an adult and a second-summer bird, at Conowingo Dam on Apr. 12 (Blom, Monk), seven (three first-summer, two second-summer, two third-summer) at Hart-Miller on May 18 (Scarpulla, D. Burggraf), one at Ocean City on May 22 (Iliff +), and nine (including five first-summer, one third-summer, one adult) at Hart-Miller on May 25 (Scarpulla +). Single lingering Glaucous Gulls, all first-winter birds, were at Ocean City on Mar. 2 (H. Holbrook), Anacostia Park on Mar. 24 (Pisano), and on Mar. 27 probably the same bird was at Chesapeake Beach (Bystrak) and North Beach (Stasz). There were 105 Great Black-backed Gulls at Havre de Grace on May 4 (Stasz, Boyd) and nesting birds were seen at Poplar Island and Bodkin Island on May 24 (Ellison +). The Kelp Gull continued to be seen at Sandgates, SM (many observers).

Terns, Skimmers. Early Caspian Terns were one at Blackwater on Mar. 23 (Willey), one at Havre de Grace the same day (Blom, Monk), and one flying up the Anacostia River, DC on Mar. 24 (Pisano); others of note were 18 at Triadelphia on Apr. 10 (Arnold), seven at Rocky Gap on Apr. 13 (Kiddy, Churchill), two at Broadford Lake on Apr. 13 (Pope), 12 at Tanyard on Apr. 21 (Stasz), 346 at Havre de Grace on May 4 (Stasz, Boyd), 139 at Hart-Miller on May 25 (Scarpulla +), and one at Morgantown on May 27 (Jett, Brewer). Reports of Royal Terns included two at North Beach on Apr. 1 (Stasz), five at Tyaskin on Apr. 19 (Stasz), 10 at Eastern Neck on May 24 (Stasz), and 40 at Morgantown on May 27 (Jett, Brewer). Reports of Common Terns included one at Assateague on Apr. 19 (Stasz), one at Eastern Neck on Apr. 27 (Stasz), 40 at Fort Smallwood on May 7 and 100 on May 11 (Ricciardi +), 40 at Hains Point on May 18 (Pisano, Hilton, Janni), two at Rocky Gap on May 17 (Czaplak), and two at Fort McHenry on May 26 (Stasz); the 500 at Poplar Island on May 31 (Reese) were probably nesting. Iliff saw six Sterna terns at Deep Creek Lake on May 21 that remained unidentified. In St. Mary's Co. Craig found 11 Forster's Terns at Leonardtown on Mar. 1 and on Mar. 2 Stasz counted 23 at Buttonwood Wharf and eight at Wicomico Shores, SM; elsewhere there were one at Blackwater on Mar. 24 (H. Armistead, Albert), one at Back River on Mar. 30 (Stasz), 15 at Allens Fresh and five at Morgantown on Apr. 6 (Jett, Brewer, Gofreed), seven at Tanyard on Apr. 6 (Stasz, Hafner), two at Hains Point on Apr. 13 (Pisano), two at Rocky Gap on Apr. 13 (Kiddy, Churchill), 12 at Tyaskin on Apr. 19 (Stasz), and one at Allens Fresh on May 27 (Jett, Brewer). One Least Tern was at Tyaskin on Apr. 19 (Stasz), five were at Tanyard on Apr. 21 (Stasz), one was at Lakeside and one at Mariner Point Park on May 4 (Stasz +), and two were at Greenbelt on May 5 (Jack Saba); others were observed nesting at Poplar Island on May 24 (Ellison +). The only Black Terns reported were three at Fort Smallwood on May 11 (Ricciardi, Mozurkewich), five flying upriver at Hains Point on May 18 (Pisano), two at Hart-Miller on May 18 (Scarpulla, D. Burggraf), four at Deep Creek Lake on May 19 with two remaining through the 22nd (Iliff), and one at Poplar Island on May 21-22 (Iliff +) and two there on May 31 (Reese). Two Black Skimmers off Lucy Point, TA on May 27 (H. Armistead) were unusual there.

Cuckoos, Dove, Owls. The first Black-billed Cuckoos of the season were one at Liberty Dam, BA on May 4 (Trisha Nyland) and one at Pylesville on May 5 (J. & L. Fry); the latest were one heard at Silver Spring on May 27 (Hilton, Shannon) and one at Fort McHenry on June 7 (Peters). Early Yellow-billed Cuckoos were one at Webster on Apr. 19 (D. Webb), one at Idylwild WMA on Apr. 21 (Stasz), and one at Chesapeake Landing on Apr. 26 (Ellison); a late migrant was at Fort McHenry on June 12 (Peters). A Eurasian Collared-Dove photographed near Port Deposit from mid April through mid June was a first for the state (Bob Willmann). Reports of Barn Owls were few with one heard migrating at night over Belcamp on Mar. 7 (Blom), one in Charles Co. on Mar. 9 (Jett, Brewer), and three at Elliott on Apr. 19 (Stasz). Iliff found 10 Long-eared Owls and six Short-eared Owls at Aaron Run on Mar. 24.

Other Short-ears were one at Fairmount WMA on Mar. 7 (H. Armistead), one at Assateague in early March (H. Holbrook), one at Dans Mountain on May 4 (Susan Sires), and one at Elliott on the late date of May 20 (D. & J. Coskren). One Northern Saw-whet Owl was heard at Cranesville Swamp, GA on May 22 (Iliff +).

Caprimulgids, Swifts, Hummingbirds. An early Common Nighthawk was near Brookview on Apr. 20 (Stasz) and high numbers of 60 at North Beach on May 10 (Stasz) and 20 at Seneca on May 12 (Bowen +) were also seen. Two Chuck-will's-widows at Assateague on Apr. 19 (Stasz) were the first of the season and three heard at Elk Neck SF, CE on May 5 (Stasz, Boyd) were also notable. Early Whip-poor-wills were single birds heard at Waldorf on Mar. 29 (Jett), Liberty Watershed, CL on Apr. 14 (Stasz), Seneca Creek SP, MO on Apr. 15 (Powell), and Snydersburg, CL on Apr. 16 (Schwemmer). Early Chimney Swifts were one at Fort Smallwood on Mar. 27 (Ricciardi +), three at Upper Marlboro on Apr. 5 (Stasz), one at Kingman Lake on Apr. 6 and three at Lock #5, MO on Apr. 7 (Hubbell), and one at California on Apr. 8 (T. Bell, Kostenko); 4,716 had returned to the roost at Hampden, BC on Apr. 25 (Carol Schreter +). Early Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were one at Parkton, BA on Mar. 27 (fide Gail Frantz), one at Woodwick, HO on Mar. 30 (fide Wright), and one heard at Columbia on Apr. 3 (H. Holbrook).

Flycatchers. Single Olive-sided Flycatchers were reported at the following locations: Ellicott City on Apr. 28 (Ott), Purse SP on May 7 (Stasz), Rigby's Folly on May 10 (H. Armistead, Baughman), MPEA on May 10 (Ott +), Rockburn on May 11 (Ott), Chicamuxen WMA, CH on May 11 (Ghebelian, Bob Lukinic), Ellicott City again on May 11-13 (Ott), Suitland Bog, PG on May 12 (Ripley), Hughes Hollow on May 15 (Bowen +), Rock Creek Park on May 23 and near Poolesville, MO on May 27 (C. Harris), and Indian Town, QA on June 2 (Crabtree). Early Eastern Wood-Pewees were one near Sykesville, HO on May 1 (Sanford), one at Croom on May 2 (Harten), one at Hollywood on May 3 (Rambo), and one at Upper Watts Branch Park on May 3 (P. O'Brien +); a late migrant was at Adam Island, DO on June 1 (H. Armistead). The only Yellow-bellied Flycatchers of the spring were one at MPEA on May 9 (H. Holbrook, Brad Lanning) and one at Broadford Lake on May 22 (Farnsworth +). The first Acadian Flycatchers of the spring were one at Dameron on Apr. 29 (Craig) and three at Battle Creek Cypress Swamp, CT on Apr. 30 (Ripley). Migrant Alder Flycatchers were one calling at MPEA on May 9 (H. Holbrook, Brad Lanning), one at Bowie on May 15 (Shaffer), one singing at Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens on May 19-24 (Hubbell +), one heard singing at PVSP Orange Grove area on May 20 (Arnold), and one silent bird at Fort McHenry on May 26 (Stasz +). Early Willow Flycatchers were one at MPEA on May 8 (H. Holbrook), one near Sideling Hill, WA on May 11 and one at Rocky Gap on May 12 (Stasz, Boyd); one singing at Allens Fresh on May 27 (Jett, Brewer) was at an interesting location. Early Least Flycatchers were one at Upper Watts Branch Park on Apr. 30 and two there on May 3 (P. O'Brien) and one heard near Sykesville, HO on May 1 (Sanford); late were two at Seneca on May 15 (Bowen +), one at Harford Glen on May 15 (P. Powers, Seitz), and one at Lake Elkhorn on May 18 (Wilkinson). Early Eastern Phoebes were one at Rockville on Mar. 2 (P. O'Brien), and one at Street, HA on Mar. 8 (Bowers). Early Great Crested Flycatchers were one heard at Broadford Lake on Apr. 14 (Pope), one at Claiborne on Apr. 18 (Reese), one at Fletchers Boathouse on Apr. 19 (Hubbell), one at Salisbury on Apr. 19 (Lawler), one at Whites Ferry on Apr. 20 (C. Harris), and one at Fleming Mill Pond, SO on Apr. 20 (Stasz). A Western Kingbird arrived at Fort McHenry on May 9 and assisted at an Eastern Kingbird nest (Peters +). Early Eastern Kingbirds were one at Fletchers Boathouse on Apr. 17 (Hubbell), one at Tunis Mills on Apr. 17 (Roslund), two at Point Lookout on Apr. 18 (Craig), and one at

Peters Creek, WI on Apr. 19 (Stasz); flocks of 50 near Westwood, PG on Apr. 21 (Fallon) and 20 at Rock Creek Park on May 10 (Sam Freiberg) were also reported.

Shrike, Vireos. A Northern Shrike was at Finzel on Mar. 25 (Iliff, Stasz). Early White-eyed Vireos were one on the C&O Canal, MO Apr. 7 (Andy Rabin +), one heard at McKeldin on Apr. 10 (Sanford), one heard at Point Lookout on Apr. 10 (Dean Newman), one at Piscataway Park, PG on Apr. 11 (Droege), one at Dameron on Apr. 11 (Craig), one at Chesapeake Landing on Apr. 11 (Ellison), one at Upper Marlboro on Apr. 11, and nest-building there on Apr. 16 (Shaffer), and one at Marriottsville on Apr. 13 (D. & J. Coskren). Early Yellow-throated Vireos were one at Jefferson Patterson Park on Apr. 17 (T. Bell), one at Rock Creek Park on Apr. 18 (Hubbell), and one at PVSP Orange Grove Area on Apr. 19 (Arnold). The first Blue-headed Vireo of the season was at Fran Uhler NA on Apr. 6 (Fallon); reports of the alticola subspecies were single birds at Upper Watts Branch Park on Apr. 16, Apr. 20, and May 5 (P. O'Brien) and Waldorf on Apr. 20 (Jett). The first Warbling Vireos of the season were two at Fletchers Boathouse on Apr. 16 (Bowen); nest-building was observed at UMCF on Apr. 20 and adults were feeding young on May 13 (Ott +). A Warbling Vireo at Centreville on May 28 (Reese) was at one of the few Eastern Shore breeding locations. Early Red-eyed Vireos were one at Cylburn on Apr. 14 (Sanford), several at Salisbury on Apr. 16 (Vaughn), one at Dameron on Apr. 16 (Craig), one at Jefferson Patterson Park on Apr. 17 (T. Bell), one at Bowie on Apr. 18 (Fallon), and one at Deal Island WMA on Apr. 20 (Stasz) and a late migrant was at St. Michaels on June 2 (Reese).

Corvids, Lark. Migrant flights of Blue Jays included 150 at North Beach on Apr. 18 (Stasz), 400 at Fort Smallwood on Apr. 18, about 1,000 there on the 20th, and nearly 2,000 on May 2 (Ricciardi +), 176 at Belcamp on Apr. 19 (Blom), and 16 at Chesapeake Landing on Apr. 20 (Ellison, N. Martin). An estimated 1,600 Fish Crows were in a dawn flight at Deal Island WMA on Mar. 7 (H. Armistead). Fish Crows were seen on nests at St. Michaels on Mar. 16 (Reese) and Dargan Bend, WA on Mar. 31 (Stasz). A Fish Crow was far west near Vale Summit, AL in May (Iliff). Pope saw a pair of Common Ravens copulating near a nest located on a highway sign in northern Garrett Co. on Mar. 28; two young were in the nest on Apr. 20. A juvenile Horned Lark was seen at Croom Airport on May 4 (Shaffer).

Swallows. The first Purple Martins of the year were one at Dameron on Mar. 3 (Bishop) and one at Lake Elkhorn on Mar. 16 (Wilkinson). Among the many very early Tree Swallows were 40 in eastern Harford Co. on Mar. 5 (Blom, Monk), a few at North Tract PRR on Mar. 7 (Noyes +), four at Deal Island WMA and 16 at Fairmount WMA on Mar. 7 (H. Armistead), one at Allens Fresh on Mar. 9 (Jett, Brewer), one at Choptank on Mar. 9 (Stasz), one at Hurlock on Mar. 9 (Arnold, DeCarli), two at Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens on Mar. 15 (Pisano), and seven along the Nanticoke River, WI on Mar. 16 (Stasz). The first large numbers of Tree Swallows were a few thousand at Fort Smallwood on Mar. 16 with thousands there on Mar. 30 (Ricciardi +), 60 on the Potomac River at Broad Creek on Mar. 17 (Mozurkewich), 150 at Rocky Gap and 15 at Cumberland on Mar. 25 (Stasz, Iliff), several hundred at Belcamp on Apr. 2 (Blom), and 400 at Breeze Point Farm WWTP on Apr. 6 (Jett, Brewer, Gofreed). Fallon found a Tree Swallow nest with five eggs in southern Prince George's Co. on Apr. 21. Early Northern Rough-winged Swallows were two at Upper Marlboro on Mar. 13 (Stasz), one at Fort Smallwood on Mar. 16 (Davidson), one at Centennial on Mar. 17 (Schwarz +), one at Washington Channel, DC on Mar. 23 (Hubbell), three at Great Falls on Mar. 23 (Fischer), and two at Cumberland on Mar. 25 (Stasz, Iliff). The first Bank Swallows were seen on Apr. 21 when one was at Tanyard (Stasz) and four at Chesapeake Farms (Ellison, N. Martin). The

peak count of Bank Swallows was 10 at Havre de Grace and 75 at Swan Harbor Farm on May 4 (Stasz, Boyd) and a late migrant was at Upper Marlboro on May 20 (Shaffer). Four Cliff Swallows at Upper Marlboro on Mar. 26 (Stasz) were exceptionally early; others of note were one at Centennial on Apr. 6 (H. & R. Holbrook), at least six at Brighton Dam on Apr. 14 (Sussman +), one at PRNAS on Apr. 30 (Rambo), one at Chesapeake Farms on May 18-19 (Ellison), and one at Upper Marlboro on May 20 (Shaffer). Early Barn Swallows were two at Fort Smallwood on Mar. 16 (Davidson), several at Washington Channel, DC on Mar. 23 (Hubbell), and one at Upper Marlboro on Mar. 27 (Shaffer).

Chickadees, Nuthatches, Wrens, Kinglets, Gnatcatchers. Shaffer observed courtship feeding of Carolina Chickadees at Upper Marlboro on Mar. 19 and fledglings were being fed there on May 17. Stasz and Boyd identified two hybrids of Carolina Chickadee X Black-capped Chickadee in western Washington Co. on May 11. Late Red-breasted Nuthatches were one at Ocean City on May 11 (Lev), two at Sideling Hill, WA on May 11 and two at Green Ridge, AL on May 12 (Stasz, Boyd), one at Greenbelt on May 12 (Mozurkewich), one at Upper Watts Branch Park on May 12 (P. O'Brien), and one at Pleasant Valley, GA on May 20-22 (Iliff +) and two near Swallow Falls in late May (Iliff) where breeding is possible. On Mar. 7 a Brown-headed Nuthatch was excavating a nest at Dameron (Craig). A Carolina Wren in Baltimore Co. started egg-laying on Mar. 4 and the nest had four eggs on the 10th (fide Ott) and a nest in Dunkirk held eggs on Mar. 8 (Ripley). Early House Wrens were one heard singing near Greenbury Point on Mar. 21 (Bystrak), one at Fair Hill, CE on Apr. 7 (Fisher), one at Harford Glen on Apr. 7 (Larkin), and one at Terrapin on Apr. 7 (Reese, B. & K. Harris). Late Winter Wrens were one at Idylwild WMA on Apr. 21 (Stasz), three at Upper Watts Branch Park on May 4 (M. O'Brien), two at Little Bennett on May 4 (Simonson), and two at Roosevelt Island on May 4 (Paul Walsh). The only Sedge Wrens reported were one at Eastern Neck on May 19 (Ellison, N. Martin) and three in Garrett Co.: one singing at Lake Ford on May 20-22 (Iliff +), one singing near Gortner on May 21 (Iliff), and one at Cherry Creek Glades on May 22 (Iliff +). Wintering Marsh Wrens included two at Irish Grove on Mar. 6 (Shaffer), one at Deal Island WMA on Mar. 7 (H. Armistead), one in the marshes on the Nanticoke River, WI on Mar. 16 (Stasz), and one singing at Broad Creek on Mar. 17 (Mozurkewich); one heard at Kenilworth Marsh on May 23-24 (Paul +) was rare in DC. Two Golden-crowned Kinglets at Dameron on Apr. 28 (Craig) were very late and a very late Ruby-crowned Kinglet was at Annapolis on May 21 (Stasz). Early Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were one at Phoenix, BA on Mar. 30 (Landers), one at Patuxent River Park, PG on Mar. 30 (Sanford, P. Webb), and one at Elkton on Apr. 1 (Fisher).

Thrushes. An Eastern Bluebird nest at Pickering Creek contained two eggs on Apr. 2 (Roslund). An early Veery was at Worthington, HO on Apr. 26 (E. & J. Metter); late birds were one at Salisbury on May 23 and two at St. Michaels on May 25 (Reese). Gray-cheeked Thrushes began with two at Upper Watts Branch Park on May 1 (P. O'Brien) and one at Fallston, HA on May 8 (Cupp) and ended with one at Webster on May 25 (D. Webb), one at Rockville on May 26 (P. O'Brien), and two near Whites Ferry on May 27 (C. Harris). An early Swainson's Thrush was at Wilde Lake on May 1 (Zeichner), at least 25 were at MPEA on May 10 (Ott +), and a late one was near Whites Ferry on May 27 (C. Harris). Apr. 17 was the early date for Wood Thrushes: two at PVSP Hilton Area, BA (Arnold), one at Rock Creek Park (Eric Raun), and one at California (T. Bell, Kostenko). Craig counted 122 American Robins at Dameron on Mar. 3, about 150 were at Cambridge on Mar. 17 (Reese, Shirley Bailey), and hundreds were at Pleasant Valley on Mar. 28 (Pope); one was nest-building at North Beach on Mar. 27 (Stasz).

Mimids, Pipits, Waxwings. Wintering Gray Catbirds blended into spring migration and it is difficult to separate them. This spring single birds were reported at the following locations: Indian Creek WMA on Mar. 1 and Wootons Landing on Mar. 5 (Stasz), Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens from Mar. 16 through Apr. 11 (Hubbell +), Centennial on Mar. 24 (Kevin Heffernan +), Easton on Mar. 24 (Reese, Allen), heard at Broadford Lake on Mar. 24 (Pope), Wilde Lake on Apr. 2 (Carol Newman), southern Howard Co. on Apr. 5 (H. Holbrook), Allens Fresh on Apr. 11 (Stasz), and UMBC on Apr. 17 (Arnold, Charlie Kucera). Wintering Brown Thrashers were one at Indian Creek WMA on Mar. 1 and one near Broomes Island, CT on Mar. 2 (Stasz), one near Mitchellville, PG on Mar. 3 and one at Upper Marlboro on Mar. 12 (Shaffer). Flocks of American Pipits included 85 at UMCF on Mar. 24 (Ott, Solem) and 50 at Centreville on Mar. 28 (Reese). Flocks of Cedar Waxwings included 150 at Font Hill, HO on Apr. 11 (Austin) and 150 at St. Michaels on Apr. 13 and 25 (Reese).

Vermivora Warblers, Parulas. Early Blue-winged Warblers were two at Bowie on Apr. 18 (Fallon), one at David Force WMA, HO on Apr. 19 (Cullison), one at Chevy Chase, DC on Apr. 20 (Robert Weiner), one at Halethorpe Ponds, AA on Apr. 22 (Arnold), one at Tilghman Neck, QA on Apr. 27 (Poet), and one at Dameron on Apr. 28 (Craig). The only reports of migrant Golden-winged Warblers were single birds at Lake Roland on Apr. 30 (Terry +), MPEA on Apr. 30 (Tom Feild), Upper Watts Branch Park on May 5 (P. O'Brien +), Rileys Lock on May 9 (Dacol), and Greenbrier SP on May 9 (Weesner). The hybrid Brewster's Warbler was seen at Little Bennett on May 11 (Gemma Radko +). A very early Tennessee Warbler was at Eastern Neck on Apr. 27 (Stasz) and late birds were one near Nanjemoy on May 27 (Jett, Brewer) and one at Upper Marlboro on May 30 (Shaffer). The Orange-crowned Warblers this spring were one at Rock Creek Park on May 3-5 (Dobbins +), one singing at Upper Watts Branch Park on May 5 (P. O'Brien +), and one at Seneca on May 16 (Stock). The first Nashville Warblers of the season were one on Apr. 19 at Upper Watts Branch Park (P. O'Brien) and one at Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens on Apr. 20 (Milton +); a late migrant was at Broadford Lake on May 22 (Iliff +). Early Northern Parulas were one at Fletchers Boathouse on Apr. 3 (Hubbell), one at Mount Pleasant on Apr. 7 (Robin Todd +), one at Marriottsville on Apr. 8 (Cullison), one at Bowie on Apr. 9 (Fallon), one heard at McKeldin on Apr. 10 (Sanford), one at Dameron on Apr. 11 (Craig), and one near Millers Sawmill, WA on Apr. 13 (Stasz).

Dendroica Warblers. Early Yellow Warblers were one at Upper Marlboro on Apr. 17 (Stasz), one at Centennial on Apr. 18 (Austin), one at Rewastico Pond, WI on Apr. 19 and three at Deal Island WMA on Apr. 20 (Stasz), one at Belcamp on Apr. 20 (Blom), and one near Hughes Hollow on Apr. 20 (C. Harris). The first Chestnut-sided Warbler of the season was at Hallmark on Apr. 28 (Ebert) and the last was at North Point SP on May 25 (Stasz, Boyd, Iliff). The first Magnolia Warbler of the season was at Wilde Lake on May 1 (Zeichner) and the last were two at St. Michaels on May 25 (Reese). Early Black-throated Blue Warblers were numerous with single birds at Lexington Park, SM on Apr. 21 (Craig, Bishop), at Rock Creek Park on Apr. 23 (Hubbell), at MPEA on Apr. 27 (Arnold), at Quiet Waters Park, AA on Apr. 27 (Dave Kidwell), at Tilghman Neck, QA on Apr. 27 (Poet), and at Harford Glen on Apr. 27 (Larkin); late were a female near Westminster on May 18 (Ringler), one at Hammond Branch, HO on May 22 (Solem), two at Upper Watts Branch Park on May 24 (P. O'Brien), and one at North Point SP on May 25 (Stasz, Boyd, Iliff). Late Yellow-rumped Warblers were one at Bridge Creek on May 19 (Stasz), 1 at Towson, BA on May 21 (Georgia McDonald), three at Upper Watts Branch Park on May 22 (P. O'Brien), 10 at Broadford Lake on May 22 (Iliff +), and one at Meadowbrook on May 26 (Solem). The first Black-throated Green Warblers this year were one at Bowie on Apr. 18 (Fallon) and one at Roosevelt Island on Apr. 20 (Walsh) with the latest one at Upper Watts Branch Park on May 24 (P. O'Brien). Early

Blackburnian Warblers were one at Constitution Park in Cumberland on Apr. 23 (Brewer) and one at Triadelphia, MO on Apr. 28 (Sussman +) and the latest were one at Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens on May 24 (Pisano) and one at Upper Watts Branch Park the same day (P. O'Brien). A Blackburnian at Catoctin Mountain Park, FR on May 26 (Stasz) may have been a rare local breeder. Early Yellow-throated Warblers appeared on Mar. 25 with one at Dunkirk (Ripley) and two at Jefferson Patterson Park (T. Bell) followed on Mar. 30 by one near Fletchers Boathouse (Hubbell) and two at Patuxent River Park, PG (Sanford, P. Webb); nest-building was observed at Kings Creek, TA on Apr. 21 (Reese +). An early Pine Warbler was singing at Tilghman Island on Mar. 2 (Reese), one was at Font Hill, HO on Mar. 8 (Austin), three were at Allens Fresh on Mar. 9 (Jett, Brewer), and nest-building was observed at Eastern Neck on Apr. 7 (Ellison). Early Prairie Warblers were one at North Tract PRR on Apr. 13 (Schreitz), one at Elms Beach on Apr. 14 (Craig), three at PRNAS on Apr. 16 (Rambo), one at Poplar Hill, PG on Apr. 16 and one near Tuckahoe SP, QA on Apr. 21 (Stasz). Early Palm Warblers were two at Easton on Mar. 24 (Reese, Allen), four westerns at Scotland on Mar. 24 (Craig), one at Meadowbrook on Mar. 30 (Ott), one at Northwest Branch Park, MO on Mar. 30 (Wilkerson), and one at Phoenix, BA on Mar. 30 (Landers); highs were seven at Roosevelt Island on Apr. 4 (David Holmes) and at least six of the yellow subspecies at Layhill on Apr. 9 (Mackiernan, Cooper). Late Yellow Palm Warblers were one at Eastern Neck on Apr. 27 (Stasz), one at Dameron on Apr. 29 (Craig), and one at Turkey Point on May 5 (Stasz, Boyd). Western Palm Warblers were one at Hallmark on May 3 (Ebert), one at Upper Watts Branch Park on May 3 (P. O'Brien +), one at Rock Creek Park on May 11 (Hilton +), and one at Triadelphia on May 11 (Sussman). On May 22 the last Bay-breasted Warblers of the season were two at Upper Watts Branch Park (P. O'Brien) and five at Broadford Lake (Iliff +). Mozurkewich found 40 Blackpoll Warblers at Patuxent River Park, PG on May 19. Coastal Plain reports of Cerulean Warblers were a male at North Tract PRR on Apr. 21 (Rod Burley, Perry +), one near Patuxent River Park, AA on Apr. 23 (Stasz), one at Aquasco Farm, PG on May 4 (Shaffer), and a female at Millbrook Pond, Chesapeake Landing on May 11 (N. Martin); a nest-building female was seen at McKeldin on May 5 (Ringler +).

Other Warblers. Early Black-and-white Warblers were one at Cylburn on Mar. 31 (Gail Frantz), one at Fletchers Boathouse on Apr. 3 (Hubbell), and one at Sandy Point SP on Apr. 5 (Schreitz); a late migrant was at St. Michaels on May 25 (Reese). A very early male American Redstart was at Nassawango Creek, WO on Apr. 2 (Dyke) and the next was one at American Chestnut Land Trust on Apr. 18 (Hamilton); 12 were at Patuxent River Park, PG on May 19 (Mozurkewich). Early Prothonotary Warblers were one at Adkins Mill Pond, WI on Apr. 10 (Dyke), one at Piscataway NP on Apr. 11 (Droege), and one at Carderock on Apr. 14 (Fischer). Early Worm-eating Warblers were widespread with two on Rock Creek, MO on Apr. 17 (Sam Freiberg), one at Eden Brook, HO on Apr. 17 (Maloney), one at American Chestnut Land Trust on Apr. 19 (Hamilton), one at Nanticoke Boy Scout Reservation, DO and one at Jones Thicket, DO on Apr. 20 (Stasz), two in eastern Somerset Co. and two at Twilley's Bridge, WI on Apr. 20 (Stasz), and six at Idylwild WMA on Apr. 21 (Stasz). A Swainson's Warbler was at Lawes Ditch, WI on Apr. 20 (Stasz). Early Ovenbirds were one at American Chestnut Land Trust on Apr. 3 (Hamilton), one at Churchville, HA on Apr. 7 (Cupp), and one at Rock Creek Park on Apr. 9 (Hubbell). Early Northern Waterthrushes were one at Timbers at Troy, HO on Apr. 16 (Sunell, Wright), one at Ellicott City on Apr. 18 (Ott), and two at Battle Creek Cypress Swamp, CT on Apr. 30 (Ripley); late birds were two at Terrapin on May 24 (Stasz), one at North Point SP on May 25 (Stasz, Boyd, Iliff), one at Mount Washington, BC on May 25 (Lev), and one near Whites Ferry on May 27 (C. Harris). Early Louisiana Waterthrushes were single birds at Nassawango Creek, WO on Mar. 23 (Dyke), Rachel Carson Park on Mar. 29 (Marko), Carderock on Mar. 29 (Schindler), Lilypons on Mar. 29 (Wilkinson),

and Marriottsville on Mar. 29 (Cullison). Early Kentucky Warblers were one at Fleming Mill Pond, SO on Apr. 20 and one at Millington WMA on Apr. 27 (Stasz). Reports of Mourning Warblers were one at Seneca on May 5-11 (Hubbell +), two there on May 10 (Dacol), one at Fallston, HA on May 8 (Cupp), one at Murray Hill, HO on May 11 (Tveekrem, Robert Solem, D. Coskren), one at Patuxent River SP, HO on May 11 (Sheppard), two males at Rock Creek Park on May 12 (Fischer) and one there on May 17 (Hubbell), and one at Upper Watts Branch Park on May 20-22 (P. O'Brien). Early Common Yellowthroats were one singing at Bestpitch, DO on Apr. 3 (T. Bell, Kostenko), two at Tuckahoe SP, QA on Apr. 6 (Stasz), and one at Dameron on Apr. 12 (Craig). Early Hooded Warblers were one near Liverpool Point, CH on Apr. 13 (Jett, Brewer), two at American Chestnut Land Trust on Apr. 17 (Hamilton), and one at Bowie on Apr. 18 (Fallon). The first Canada Warbler of the season was at Broad Creek Scout Reservation, HA on May 4 (Stasz, Boyd) and the latest were on May 27, one at Roosevelt Island (Hilton, Shannon) and two near Nanjemoy (Jett, Brewer). The first Yellow-breasted Chats of the season were several at Tunis Mills on Apr. 25 (Roslund).

Tanagers. Early Summer Tanagers were one at North Tract PRR on Apr. 20 (Pierce), one at Dameron on Apr. 21 (Craig, Bishop), one at Lochearn, BA on Apr. 21 (P. Webb), one in southern Prince George's Co. on Apr. 21 (Fallon), and one at Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens on May 5 (Craig Tumer). Early Scarlet Tanagers were one at American Chestnut Land Trust on Apr. 20 (Hamilton), one at UMCF on Apr. 20 (Ott +), and one at Idylwild WMA on Apr. 21 (Stasz); an orange-red male was at Upper Watts Branch Park on May 12-15 (P. O'Brien).

Sparrows, Juncos. Shaffer reported the last American Tree Sparrows from the winter on Mar. 3, two birds in Prince George's Co. The two Chipping Sparrows at Chaptico Wharf, SM on Mar. 2 (Stasz) were probably wintering locally but spring migration was probably represented by one at Ridge on Mar. 16 (Craig), one banded at Nanjemoy on Mar. 19 (Callahan), and one at Centennial on Mar. 24 (Peruzzi); peak migration was noted on Mar. 31 with 200 at Scotland and 100 at Ridge (Craig). Early Vesper Sparrows were two in eastern Garrett Co. on Mar. 24 (Stasz), one in Howard Co. on Mar. 31 (Ott, Holdridge), and one at Galestown, DO on Apr. 6 (Stasz, Hafner). Wintering Savannah Sparrows included 30 at Dameron on Mar. 6 (Craig), and on Mar. 9 there were 12 at Breeze Point Farm WWTP (Jett, Brewer) and eight at Easton (Stasz); peak migration counts were 18 at Elliott on Apr. 19 (Stasz) and 14 at Swan Harbor Farm on May 4 (Stasz, Boyd), and two late migrants were at Foxhall Farms, BA on May 15 (Arnold). Early Grasshopper Sparrows were four at Western Regional Park on Apr. 18 (Solem, Tufts) and five near Whites Ferry on Apr. 20 (C. Harris). Three Henslow's Sparrows were near Vale Summit, AL in May (Iliff). Single Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrows were reported at Flag Ponds on May 7 (Ripley) and North Beach on May 10 (Stasz). Seaside Sparrows numbered 60 at Elliott and three at Ellis Bay WMA, WI on Apr. 19 (Stasz), six at Horsehead on May 2 (Reese, Allen) and seven there on May 24 (Stasz), two at Flag Ponds on May 7 (Ripley), one at North Beach on May 10 (Stasz), and one at Fort McHenry on May 21 (Peters). Among the few Fox Sparrows reported were six at Wootons Landing on Mar. 5 (Stasz). The high for Song Sparrows was 200 at Dameron on Mar. 6 (Craig); Stasz saw a Song Sparrow nest-building at North Beach on Apr. 18. A Lincoln's Sparrow at UMCF on Apr. 1 (Ott, Solem) probably wintered locally. The first migrant Lincoln's Sparrow was on the Patapsco River, AA on Apr. 30 (Arnold) and the last was at Broadford Lake on May 22 (Iliff +). A late Swamp Sparrow was at Alpha Ridge on May 19 (Cullison). A peak of 200 White-throated Sparrows was at Claiborne on Apr. 18 (Reese) and the latest were two at Upper Watts Branch Park on May 20 (P. O'Brien). Seven late White-crowned Sparrows were at Backbone Mountain, GA on May 21 (Iliff) and two were at Rocky Gap on May 22 (Iliff +).

The last Dark-eyed Juncos reported were one at Glen Artney, BA on May 1 (J. Martin) and one at Parsonsburg on May 8 (Pitney).

Cardinaline Finches. Very early Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were a male at Ellicott City on Apr. 8 (fide Ott) and a female along Rock Creek, MO (Sam Freiberg); late birds were one at Twilley's Bridge, WI on May 14 (Lawler), one at Upper Watts Branch Park on May 17 (P. O'Brien), and one at Kindler, HO on May 20 (Solem). Early Blue Grosbeaks were a male at Dameron on Apr. 20 (Craig), one at Kenilworth Park on Apr. 21 (Hubbell), and one at Lakeside on Apr. 21 (Larkin). Early Indigo Buntings were one at Cabin John, MO on Apr. 19 (C. Harris), a male at Dameron on Apr. 20 (Craig), and one at North Tract PRR on Apr. 21 (Chris Barnard). A female Painted Bunting visited a feeder at Havre de Grace on Mar. 1 through Apr. 8 (fide Norman Friedman). Few Dickcissels appeared this spring with three at PRNAS on Apr. 29 (Rambo), a female at UMCF on May 13 (Ott, Holdridge), a singing male near Sparks, BA on May 13 (Sanford +), and a male near Adamstown, FR on May 26 (Stasz).

Icterids. The first Bobolink of the season was at UMCF on Apr. 26 (Ott), about 200 were near Hunt Valley, BA on May 11 (Sanford, P. Webb), and a late migrant was at Bridge Creek on May 19 (Stasz). About 500 Red-winged Blackbirds were at Wootons Landing on Mar. 5 (Stasz). Flocks of Rusty Blackbirds included 35 at Great Falls on Mar. 23 (Fischer), 47 at Finzel on Mar. 25 (Stasz, Iliff), and 45 at Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens on Mar. 29 (Pisano); late birds were one at Halethorpe Ponds, AA on May 10 (Arnold) and five at Rock Run, HA the same day (Cheicante). Early Orchard Orioles were one at Fletchers Boathouse on Apr. 17 (Hubbell), one at Point Lookout on Apr. 18 (Craig), and one at Rewastico Pond, WI on Apr. 19 (Stasz). A female Baltimore Oriole was wintering at Allens Fresh on Mar. 9 (Jett, Brewer) and early migrants were one at Woodwick, HO on Apr. 16 (Wright) and one at Webster on Apr. 19 (D. Webb).

Cardueline Finches, House Sparrow. Six Red Crossbills were seen at Mountain Lake Park on May 12 with four remaining through the 29th (fide Pope). A female White-winged Crossbill was at a feeder in Frostburg, AL on Mar. 31 and again from Apr. 29 through May 1 (Jessica Kerns-McClelland +). Highs for Purple Finches were 20 at a Dunkirk feeder on Mar. 22 (Ripley), 15 at Webster on Apr. 15 (D. Webb), 25 at Hughes Hollow on Apr. 15 (Powell), and at least 25 at Layhill on Apr. 18 (Mackiernan, Cooper). A pair of House Finches was nest-building at Dameron on Mar. 25 (Craig). Pitney had the corner on the Pine Siskin market with about 50 at her Parsonsburg feeder from early March to 16 on May 10 and the last one on May 20. Pope saw one siskin at her feeder in Mountain Lake Park on May 22 and birds were seen nesting at McHenry on May 9 (Ellison, J. Coskren). High counts of American Goldfinches were 100 at North Beach on Apr. 18 (Stasz) and 600 at Fort Smallwood on Apr. 18 and 400 on Apr. 20 (Ricciardi +). Sightings of Evening Grosbeaks have become very rare anywhere in the state. This spring one was flying over Table Rock, GA on Apr. 14 (Pope), three were at Sykesville, CL on Apr. 21 (Hoffman), one was at Columbia on Apr. 23 (Tveekrem), and one was at Ellicott City on Apr. 26 (Kevin Heffernan). On Mar. 15 Shaffer observed a nest-building House Sparrow at Merkle.

Exotics. A Greylag Goose was at Lake Artemesia from Feb. 21 through Mar. 10 (fide Davis). Sightings of Chukars were one at Churchville, HA on Mar. 14 (fide Bill McIntosh), one at Pickering Creek in late March or early April (Roslund), and one near Hughes Hollow on Apr. 2 (Dacol). A Monk Parakeet set up shop in Maryland City, AA on Mar. 30, was seen by many observers through the end of the season, and was observed nest-building on a utility pole on Apr. 9 (Shaffer) and later until it reached large proportions.

6272 Pinyon Pine Court, Eldersburg, MD 21784

MARYLAND BIRDLIFE

Published Quarterly by the Maryland Ornithological Society, Inc.

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Maryland Ornithological Society, Inc.
Cylburn Mansion
4915 Greenspring Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland 21209-4698

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